

PLANTING IDEAS • BEAUTIFUL GARDENS • EXPERT ADVICE

GARDENS

ILLUSTRATED

THE
ECO
SELECTION

Beautiful
and useful
plants
for every gardener

HOW TO
propagate
snowdrops

9 OF THE BEST
MINI
GLASSHOUSES

The making of an
eco-modernist garden
in California

2021
DESIGN
TRENDS



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Editor's letter



With so many wonderful plants to choose from, how best to decide which ones to grow? In this issue we take inspiration from five leading designers who all select the plants they use regularly in the context of wider plant communities; Nigel Dunnett, Professor of Planting Design at the University of Sheffield, counts the incredibly beautiful planting scheme at the Barbican in London among his work, designer Marian Boswall's elegant and contemporary plans are informed by natural plant communities, Conrad Batten's painterly approach draws on the principles of forest gardening and Tom Massey is the designer of the first organic garden at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show this year. Pioneering French nurseryman Olivier Filippi, our international contributor, is a specialist in plants that thrive using fewer natural resources. What these designers share is an artist's eye for a good plant as much as an ecological vision.

In the quiet of her home in Cumbria, National Collection holder Margaret MacLennan propagates countless snowdrops each year. The process involves slicing unflinchingly through individual bulbs, many valued at more than £1,000 each. On page 66 she offers a practical guide to propagating *Galanthus* at home and shares notable snowdrops from her extensive collection.

On page 94 we look forward, with design trends for the year ahead, including plants that do double-duty, the continuing popularity of edibles and reusing the plastic we already have, rather than avoiding it in the garden completely.

Wishing you a very happy new year,

Lucy Bellamy

LUCY BELLAMY, EDITOR



JASON INGRAM

Dianthus carthusianorum a go-to plant for dry meadow plantings, page 29.

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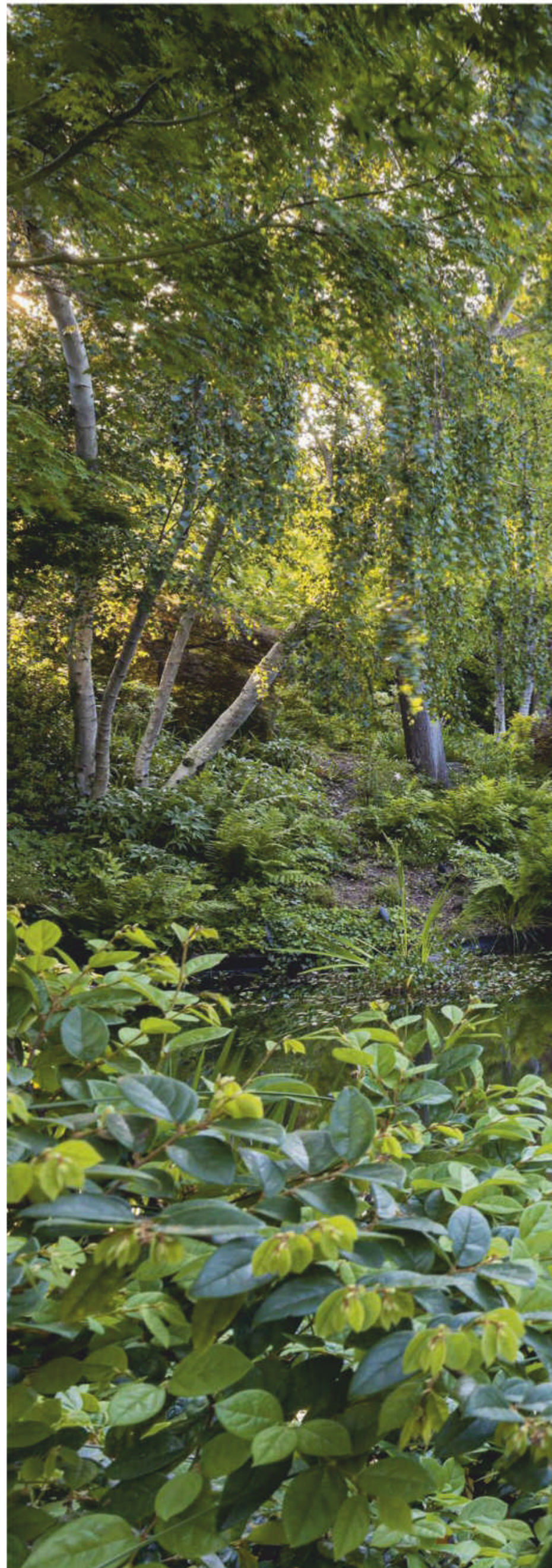
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RICHARD BLOOM



Designer Ron Lutsko has created a temperate oasis for a 1960s house in California, page 80.

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COVER IMAGE

Galanthus elwesii 'Mr
Blobby' by Jason Ingram

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- Save money when you subscribe to the digital edition of *Gardens Illustrated* – page 26
- Save 10 per cent on plants at crocus.co.uk† – page 106
- Win a pair of tickets to this year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show†† – page 107

†Crocus offer available to mainland UK residents only.

†† Competition open to UK residents only.

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To find out about our **courses** at our **Australian** home in the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Melbourne Gardens please visit **lcgd.com.au**



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Contributors



Tom Massey

Tom selects plants suitable for a changing climate, page 29. *"I've included a selection of some of my favourite plants, a mix of British natives alongside non-native performers and adaptable species."*



Richard Wilford

Richard recommends the best erythroniums to brighten a shady corner, page 50. *"It is rare that you can say every species of a plant is beautiful but it's certainly true for erythroniums."*



Richard Bloom

Photographer Richard visits a Devon garden, page 58. *"Snowdrops and cyclamen abound at Higher Cherubeer, so many wonderful varieties mixed with a plethora of other winter-interest plants."*

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James Basson

James lives in the South of France where he runs Scape Design with his wife Helen, specialising in low-maintenance and dry gardens. He is a fervent advocate for creating sustainable landscapes. The winner of four Chelsea Gold medals, he was awarded Best in Show in 2017.

Fergus Garrett

Fergus was appointed head gardener at Great Dixter by Christopher Lloyd in 1993. He is passionate about passing on his knowledge through student programmes at Dixter and worldwide lectures. He was awarded an RHS Associate of Honour in 2008 and an RHS Victoria Medal of Honour in 2019.

Anna Pavord

Anna's books include her bestseller *The Tulip* and most recently *Landskipping*. For 30 years she was *The Independent's* gardening correspondent. In 2000 the RHS awarded her the Veitch Memorial Medal. She lives and gardens in Dorset.

Dan Pearson

Dan is one of the UK's best-known garden designers, familiar to many through his gardening columns in the *Observer* magazine. Eight of his gardens, including the Tokachi Millennium Forest in Japan, have won awards and he was awarded Best in Show for his garden at Chelsea in 2015.

Sarah Price

Sarah is one of the UK's most sought-after garden designers who gained worldwide recognition for her designs for the 2012 London Olympic Park. She won Gold at Chelsea in 2012 and 2018, and was GMG Garden Columnist of the Year in 2016 for her design series in *Gardens Illustrated*.

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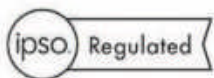
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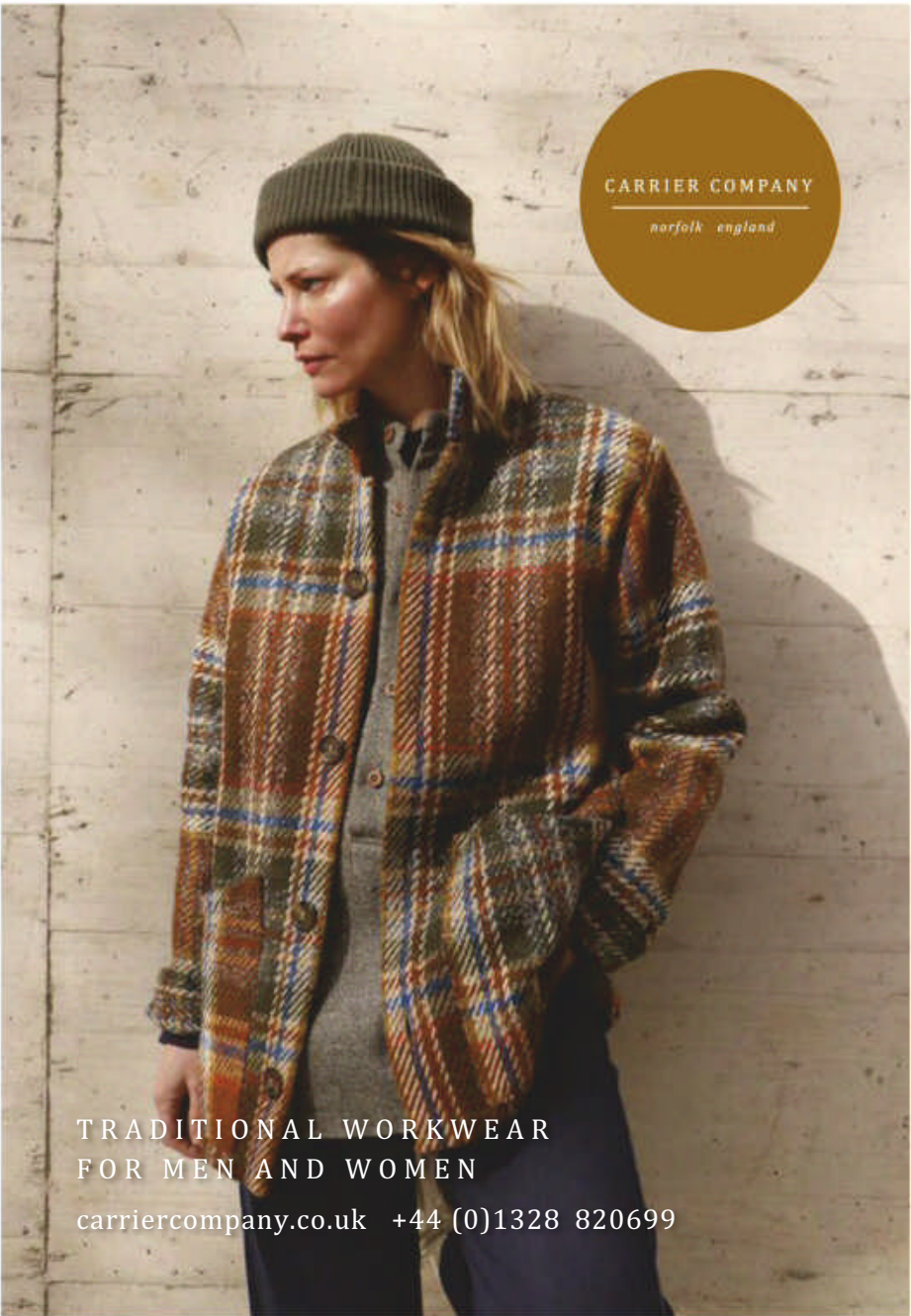
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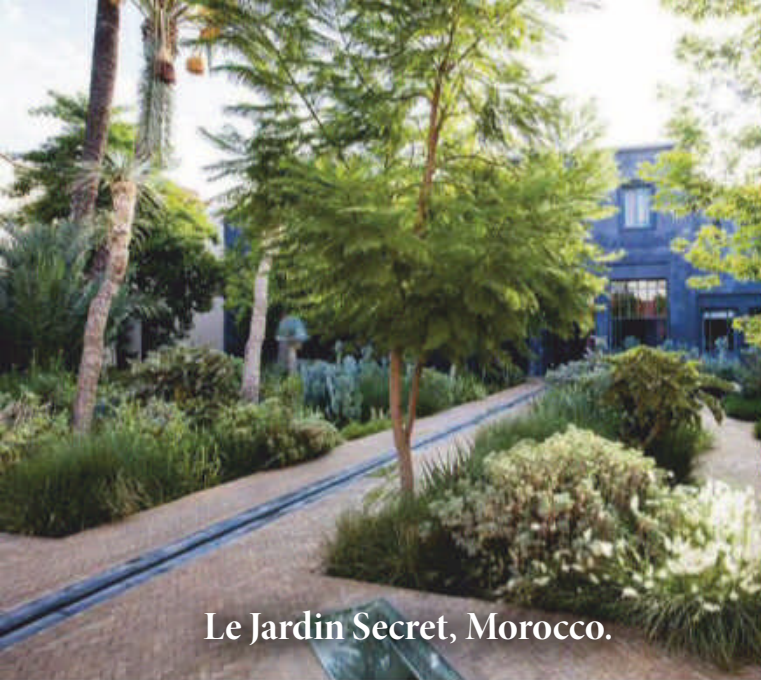
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24-28 JUNE 2021

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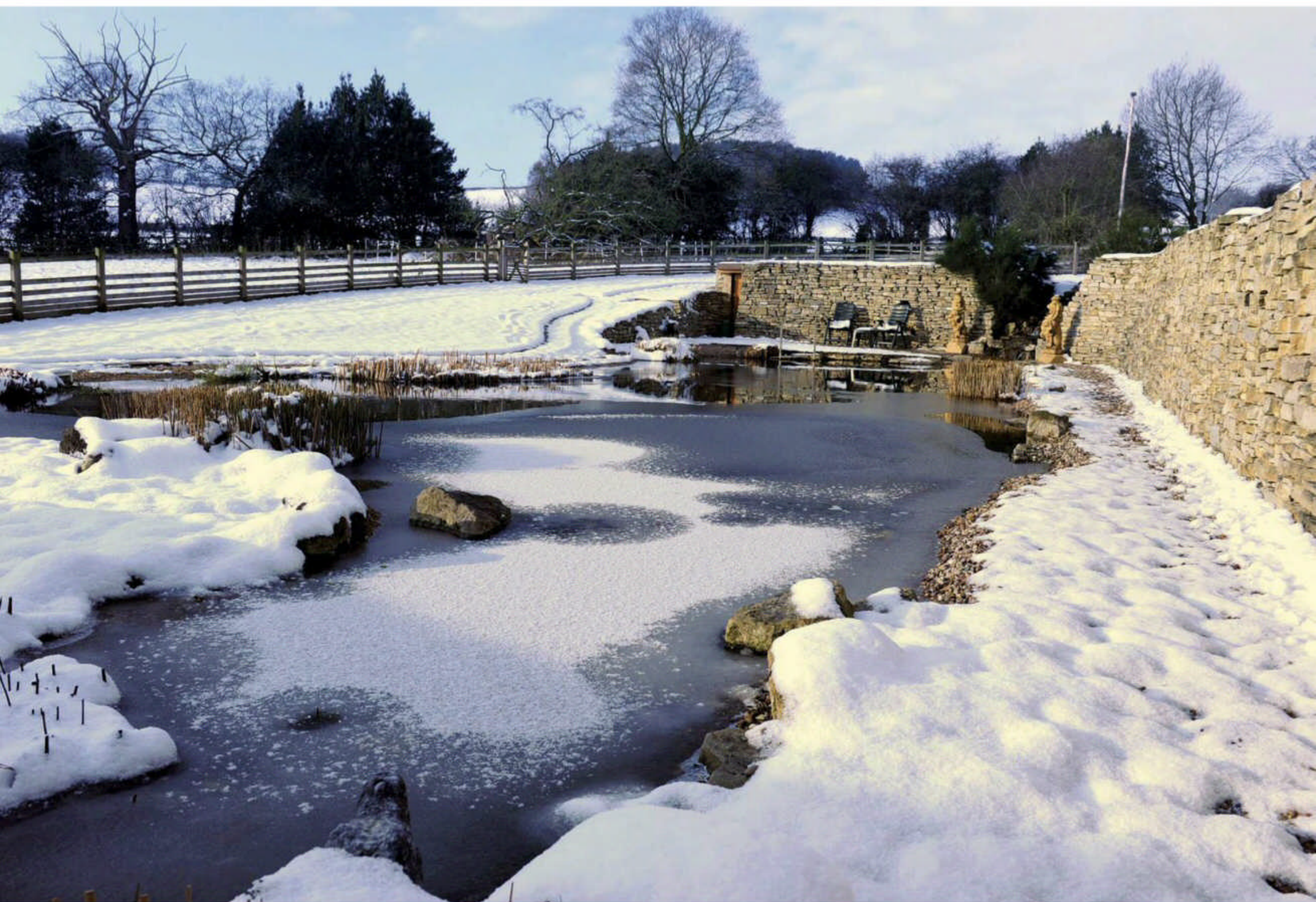
gardens allow guests to meet the owners, garner expert advice and drink in the beauty of contrasting gardens that take you right to the warm heart of the Irish gardening world. **Price** £2,950 per person (single supplement applies). For more information or to book please contact Boxwood Tours. **Tel** 01341 241717. **Email** mail@boxwoodtours.co.uk **Website** boxwoodtours.co.uk

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For up to date details on these and other reader events go to gardensillustrated.com/events-and-offers



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RHS Chelsea Flower Show.



RHS Garden Wisley Flower Show.



Toby's Garden Festival.



Harrogate Flower Show..

Garden shows 2021

Flower shows, festivals and plant fairs are wonderful sources of inspiration for the garden. Here is our roundup of the top shows in the UK and further afield for 2021

COMPILED BY KATIE DUTTON

MARCH

27-28 March Cornwall Garden Society Spring Flower Show, UK Early season plant fair with specialist nurseries. 10am-4pm. From £10. Royal Cornwall Showground, Wadebridge, Cornwall PL27 7JE. Tel 07530 920585, cornwallgardensociety.org.uk

APRIL

9-11 April RHS Garden Hyde Hall Spring and Orchid Show, UK Orchids and early flowering plants. 10am-4pm. £13.50. RHS Garden Hyde Hall, Creep hedge Lane, Chelmsford, Essex CM3 8RA. Tel 01245 402013, rhs.org.uk

22-25 April Harrogate Flower Show, UK Celebrating spring gardens. 8.30am-1pm or 1.30pm-6pm. From £15. Great Yorkshire Show Ground, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 8NZ. Tel 01423 648212, flowershow.org.uk

9-11 April Fête des Plantes de Printemps, France (and 24-26 September Fête des Plantes d'Automne) France's largest plant festival. 10am-6pm. €14. Château de Saint-Jean de Beauregard, Rue de Château, 91940 Saint Jean de Beauregard, France. Tel +33 (0)1 60 12 00 01, chateaudesaintjeandebeauregard.com

30 April – 1 May Toby's Garden Festival, UK Annual garden celebration. 10am-5pm. Ticket prices to be announced. Powderham Castle, Kenton, nr Exeter, Devon EX6 8JQ. Tel 07561 261615, tobygardenfest.co.uk

MAY

5-9 May RHS Malvern Spring Festival, UK Flagship event returns with flowers, food and crafts. Wednesday to Saturday, 8am-1pm or 2pm-7pm; Sunday, 9am-6pm. From £27.75. Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcestershire WR13 6NW. Tel 0844 338 7501, rhs.org.uk

7-9 May Beervelde Garden Days, Belgium Renowned nurseries. 10am-6pm. Ticket prices to be announced. Beervelde Parc, Beervelde-Dorp 75, 9080 Beervelde, Belgium. Tel +32 (0)9 356 81 82, parkvanbeervelde.be

18-23 May RHS Chelsea Flower Show, UK The UK's premier horticultural show. Tuesday to Saturday, 8am-8pm; Sunday 8am-5.30pm. From £83.75. London Gate, Royal Hospital Road, Royal Hospital Chelsea, London SW3 4SR. Tel 0844 338 7501, rhs.org.uk

29-31 May The Scottish Garden Show, UK Top nurseries in an historic setting. 9am-5pm. £18.75. Scone Palace, Perth PH2 6BD. Tel 01738 552300, scone-palace.co.uk

JUNE

17-20 June BBC Gardeners' World Live, UK Sustainability and indoor gardening are the focus this year. Thursday-Saturday, 9am-6pm; Sunday, 9am-5pm. From £26. The NEC, North Avenue, Marston Green, Birmingham, West Midlands B40 1NT. Tel 020 7150 5154, bbcgardenersworldlive.com

18-20 June Bingerden International Specialist Nursery Days, the Netherlands Top European nurseries. 10am-6pm. €14. Huis Bingerden, Bingerdenseweg 21, 6986 CE Angerlo, the Netherlands. Tel +31 (0)313 48 42 38, bingerden.com

25-27 June Blenheim Palace Flower Show, UK The very best of gardening, 10am-5pm. From £15. Blenheim Palace, Woodstock, Oxfordshire OX20 1PP. Tel 01993 810530, blenheimflowershow.co.uk

25-27 June RHS Garden Harlow Carr Flower Show, UK Specialist nurseries. 9.30am-4pm. £13.50. RHS Garden Harlow Carr, Crag Lane, Beckwithshaw, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG31 1QB. Tel 01423 565418, rhs.org.uk

JULY

6-11 July RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival, UK Tuesday to Saturday, 10am-7pm; Sunday, 10am-5pm. From £23.75. Hampton Court Palace, East Molesey, Surrey KT8 9AU. Tel 0844 338 7501, rhs.org.uk

17-18 July Belvoir Castle Flower & Garden Show, UK Show gardens and talks. 9.45am-4.30pm. From £12.50. Belvoir Castle, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG32 1PE. Tel 07949 845346, visitbelvoir.co.uk

21-25 July 2021 RHS Flower Show Tatton Park, UK Plants and show gardens. 10am-5pm. £29.75. Tatton Park, Mereheath Lane, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 6QN. Tel 0844 338 7501, rhs.org.uk

AUGUST

13-15 August RHS Rosemoor Flower Show, UK Displays and expert advice. 10am-5pm. £13.50. RHS Garden Rosemoor, Great Torrington, Devon EX28 8PH. Tel 01805 624067, rhs.org.uk

AUTUMN

7-12 September RHS Garden Wisley Flower Show, UK Specialist nurseries. 9.30-3pm. £16.50. RHS Garden Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB. Tel 01483 224234, rhs.org.uk

1-3 October Orticolario Flower Fair Display gardens and rare plants with late season focus. Ticket prices and opening times to be announced. Villa Erba Gardens, Largo Luchino Visconti 4, 22012 Cernobbio, Italy. Tel +39 031 3347503, orticolario.it

This is just a selection of shows for 2021. Check local press and rhs.org.uk for other events. Dates and prices correct at time of going to press but check with event and government guidelines before travelling.

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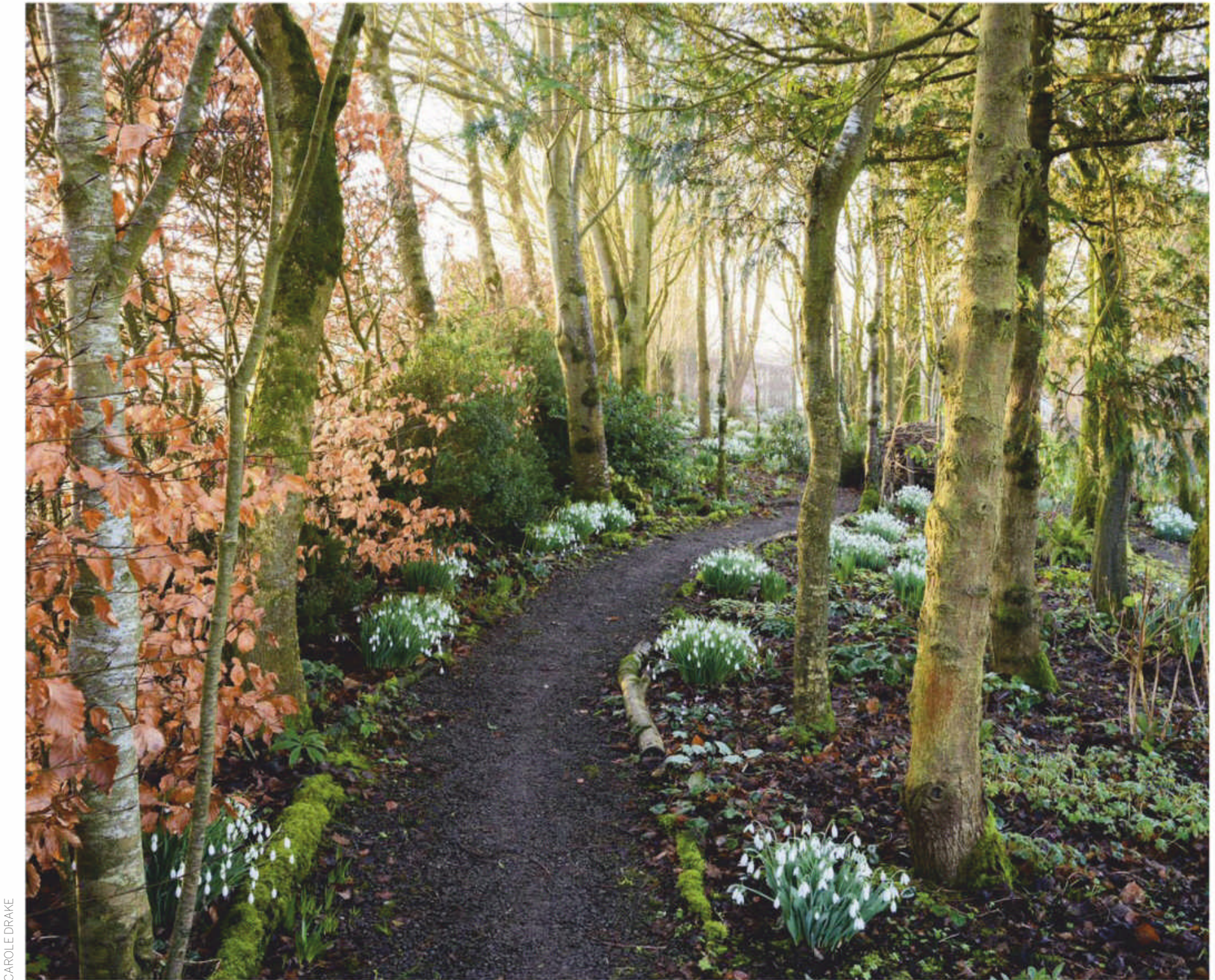
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Dig in

What's happening, what's in flower and what to buy this month



CAROLE DRAKE

First signs of spring

Few new years have been quite so eagerly anticipated by so many as 2021, and gardeners have perhaps never looked forward as much to their first sight of those harbingers of spring: snowdrops. Thankfully, the National Garden Scheme is once again offering the perfect antidote to winter blues and a real chance to blow away the cobwebs with its annual Snowdrop Festival. This year numbers in gardens will be strictly limited, so pre-booking is essential. Ninety-five gardens across the UK will be opening for the festival on dates throughout February, with a few gardens, including Ivy Croft in Herefordshire, opening in January. Among this year's highlights is Higher Cherubeer in Devon (above), which you can read more about on page 58. Here snowdrops are joined by other early spring flowers including hellebores and a National Collection of cyclamen. Other treats include Knowle Hill Farm in Kent, where Elizabeth Cairns grows many unusual snowdrops among intriguing topiary, and the lovely garden at Pembury House in East Sussex.

For a full list of gardens and to pre-book your visit head to ngs.org.uk/snowdrops

News

COMPILED BY KATIE DUTTON



Small but tough

Perfectly sized to pop in your mouth, with a fabulous flavour that is sweet as a cherry, Solanum lycopersicum 'Crimson Cherry' is an early cropping F1 hybrid cherry tomato from Suttons that's perfect for container growing in a courtyard garden or terrace, and doesn't need a greenhouse. Growing to around 2m, it offers delicious fruit from June to October, and is the first blight-resistant cherry-sized tomato, completely unfazed by both early and late blight. Available to buy as seeds, which can be sown from late February until April, and from late spring as grafted super plugs and plants. Prices start at £4.49 for a pack of ten seeds. suttons.co.uk



SEEDS OF CHANGE

The historic gardens at Chatsworth have entered the final phase of their three-year transformation project. The centrepiece of the project is Tom Stuart-Smith's new 15-acre Arcadia (above), which sits at the heart of the garden and offers views out across the park and towards other new and redeveloped areas, including Dan Pearson's Trout Stream, and the Rock Garden and Maze borders, both of which have been redesigned by Tom. This final phase also sees a push towards more sustainable gardening at Chatsworth, driven by the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire. Virtually no pesticides or fungicides are used in the glasshouses, and 95 per cent of the 40,000 perennial plants and more than 30,000 bulbs planted over the autumn went into peat-free compost; all plants grown on site for Chatsworth's shops are already completely peat-free. The team has also been working with Professor James Hitchmough of the University of Sheffield to sow and establish a new, half-acre Meadow Glade, which should start to bloom this summer. chatsworth.org

Natural touch

From their workshop in Brighton, design duo Dru Plumb and Barnaby Ash forge unique and simply designed homewares, all sustainably made using traditional craftsmanship. Hand-crafted from native woods, including elm, oak, chestnut and walnut, all the pair's pieces are both beautiful and functional helping, as Dru and Barnaby say, to breathe life into a room. Prices start at around £50 for a small bowl, see website for details. ashandplumb.co.uk



Home and away

If the long months of working from home have left you yearning for a garden room of your own, then the new garden office from InSpira could be the answer. The modular design means it can be configured in different sizes and shapes, and the glass doors and window panels can be positioned to make the most of garden views. The stylish ceiling also spirals around a central roof light helping to let natural light flood in. At just 2.5m high it doesn't require planning permission and comes pre-wired with lights and sockets, making it easy to install. Prices start at around £12,000. in-spira.co.uk



Overall style

If you're on the hunt for a hardworking apron suitable for either indoor or out, this botanical number from independent store, The Bristol Artisan, is a safe contender. Made from natural cotton, the apron will soften and relax over time for a comfortable fit. It comes with an adjustable neck strap and large front pockets, allowing plenty of room to keep garden tools, seed packets or freshly picked veg. Available in a soothing grey shade, the apron costs £25 from thebristolartisan.com

A taste of the country

TV presenter and rambling enthusiast Julia Bradbury has joined forces with her sister to capture the essence of the great outdoors in a gin. The Outdoor Guide Gin has been inspired by their favourite countryside walks around the Peak District, and combines traditional juniper with locally sourced fruits, such as blackberry and raspberry, along with more unusual botanicals including nettle, mint, heather and lavender. The delicious tippie is a collaboration between the sisters' Outdoor Guide website and Derbyshire Distillery, based in Chesterfield. Enjoy it over ice with a slice of lemon and tonic water, or in a hot toddy to warm up after a winter walk. A 75cl bottle costs £39 from derbyshiredistillery.com





Sweet scentsation

If you're on the lookout for a new sweet pea for summer borders then *Lathyrus x hammettii* 'Three Times As Sweet' warrants a place on your list. New from Thompson & Morgan, it boasts three colours on one flower and is also beautifully scented. Perfect to grow in full sun it will easily cover a wall or fence and makes a wonderfully fragrant cut flower. Prices start at £9.99 for three plugs despatched by the end of March. thompson-morgan.com



Plant yourself down

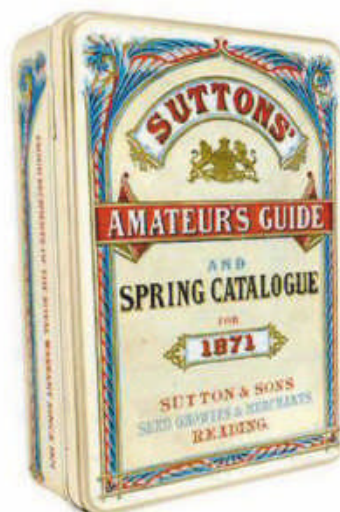
Get a dose of gardening joy with the Plant Based Podcast TV. Hosted by plant fanatics Ellen Mary and Michael Perry, the YouTube spin-off of the popular podcast, offers short and snappy films on topics ranging from houseplant trends, edible flowers and patio planting. Perhaps the perfect way to get your garden fix for the winter months. Search 'Plant Based Podcast TV' on YouTube to watch.

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Cherish the unique

*Bring interest and individual style to your home and garden
with premium online antiques marketplace 2Covet*

All but the sleekest of urban gardens will look better given time to settle, plants to mature and a patina of age to accumulate. You may be lucky enough to already have a garden or home with history but there are other ways to add a sense of age and indeed individuality. By seeking out and incorporating unique and eclectic antiques, you can lend an air of permanence, while also celebrating a range of materials and craftsmanship. To help you in your search, the stock at online marketplace 2Covet is as varied as it is beautiful, and has pieces that will play to a love of gardens, plants and considered style.

The website launched at the end of 2019 with the aim of connecting antiques lovers with world-renowned dealers. Today, over 50 dealers from across the UK exhibit their pieces here, with items organised by category, and with details of history included, browsing is both easy and fascinating. Currently your eye might be drawn by the exquisite depiction of a white-flowering violet inlaid in marble and shell in a black limestone paperweight from the mid 19th century. The stone was quarried from

Derbyshire and was popular for its fine grain that could be polished to a shiny, marble-like finish. Or an impressive, early 18th-century oak trestle table, just waiting for a centrepiece of houseplants or freshly cut flowers. You'll find work from key artists and designers too, adding an extra layer of interest and desirability.

'For me, the most exciting part of working with antiques is finding out their provenance,' says director Zara Rowe. 'I love discovering pieces that have a history and tell of a previous life. It's what makes antiques special.'

Zara runs 2Covet with Charles Wallrock and Steve Sly – seasoned dealers, who have a wealth of experience working in the antiques business and a keen eye for quality and prestige. 'We are selective with the dealers that we work with and our vetting process means that we only choose the best specialist in each field,' says Zara.

Be sure to indulge in the process of browsing, too. You might not find the right item immediately, but the search will add to the satisfaction of knowing that when you find your antique, you have a piece of history that has given joy for years and will do so for years to come. □

- 1** Flight Barr & Barr Worcester porcelain coffee cup, or more correctly, a coffee can.
- 2** Silver model of a heron.
- 3** *A Bend in the Road* – painting by mid 20th-century artist Theodore Major.
- 4** Early 18th-century oak trestle table.
- 5** *Paschal Lamb* from Eric Gill engraving.
- 6** Arne Jacobson Oxford swivel chairs in leather. Made by Fritz Hansen.
- 7** *Bird*, hand-painted plate, Philip Sutton RA.
- 8** Mid 19th-century, Derbyshire Ashford marble paperweight.



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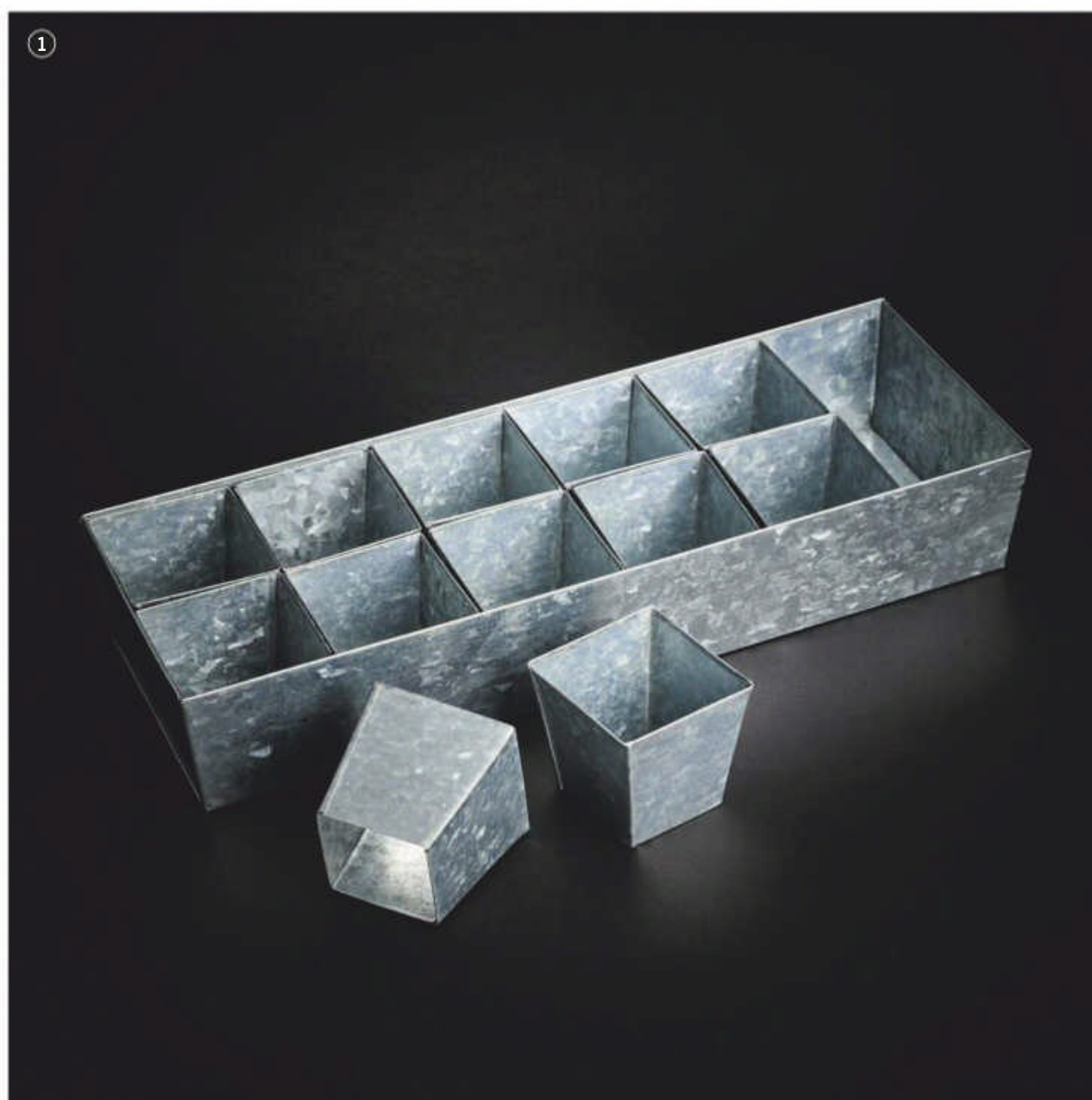
For propagating

COMPILED BY KATIE DUTTON

MAIN IMAGES STEVE SAYERS



1. DeWit Small Propagating Tools & Wooden Gift Box, £59.99, crocus.co.uk 2. Lighthouse Beachcomber Ladies Waterproof Jacket, meadow green, £49.95, 01725 510051, newforestclothing.co.uk 3. Burgon & Ball Seed Tray Tamper, £8.30, blooming.uk 4. Set of Plant Labels, £20.50, 0800 096 0937, manufactum.co.uk
5. Garland Micro Grow Light Garden, white, £49.99, ubergreens.co.uk 6. Mini Bamboo/Coffee Husk Plant Pots, blush, set of five, £8.99, 01243 769032, madewithhusk.co.uk 7. Gro-Sure Perlite, 10 litres, £8.99, 0344 557 6700, marshallsgarden.com



1. Galvanised Tray with 12 Growing Pods, £29.99, crocus.co.uk 2. Coco Boost Peat Free All Purpose Compost, 1kg (15 litres), £9.99, 0333 321 6896, qualitygardensupplies.co.uk 3. Nether Wallop Oak Paper Potter, £9.99, 01666 505333, wildlifeworld.co.uk 4. Oak Dibber, £5.20, 0800 096 0937, manufactum.co.uk 5. Sanpu Sanyo Short Apron, £65, 0333 112 3288, nimiltd.com 6. Nature Steel Garden Sieve, 12mm mesh, 37cm diameter, £15.99, en-gb.bakker.com 7. Opinel No.8 Garden Knife, £10.95, tinkerandfix.co.uk 8. Mesa Boot, desert tan, £125, 0800 028 1816, toms.com

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rip out a plant that
doesn't perform.
See the space as
an opportunity

GARDENING TALENT

DEAN CHARLTON

Now one of the team at Great Dixter, Dean has been able to learn from key mentors throughout his journey to becoming a gardener

PORTRAIT ANDREW MONTGOMERY

Earliest gardening memory Selling my dad's leftover bedding plants at the end of our drive with my sister Lauren. We would design and colour-in seed packets of marigolds and sell them for 10p each.

Who has inspired your career the most? I was lucky enough to have two grandads, when I was growing up, with two different styles of gardening. One with immaculate lawns, wallflowers and roses. The other more tuned into nature with an orchard and vegetables. A privilege to have grown up with such legends.

How did you come to a career in gardening I have always been interested in both art and horticulture. I took the art path first, taking me to Newcastle to study print making. From there it was community farms and gardens focusing on therapeutic gardening, and from then on to horticulture as a career.

Horticultural heroes I adore the writings of both Beth Chatto and Christopher Lloyd with their great knowledge and witty differing opinions. To have worked with their successors David Ward and Fergus Garrett has been priceless.

Favourite landscape that has influenced you Puzzlewood in the Forest of Dean. Towering, moss-covered formations of rock with gnarled roots of yew. Believed to have been an inspiration to JRR Tolkien, this timeless setting evokes a mysterious feel through elevations and turns.

Three most worthwhile tips for any gardener Don't hesitate to rip out a plant that doesn't perform any more in the garden. See the space as an opportunity. When you're tempted to buy a plant, think of the location in the garden and make sure you plant it that day. Or else it becomes neglected and then you create a plant cemetery.

Favourite planting style Succession planting to extend the season for as long as possible. Even within the smallest of garden spaces, so many layered ingredients can be added into the experimental mixture.

Where do you see horticulture heading in the next few years?

I hope for a greater understanding and cohesiveness between design, horticulture, ecology and community.

Contact Instagram @deancharltongardener

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GOOD INTENTIONS

A new year heralds a new growing season and the promise of crops to come. For Aaron, January is also the month for resolving to take fruit trees in hand, which offers him both the satisfaction of seeing neat rows of pruned trees and the chance to work up an appetite for hearty soups and stews

WORDS AARON BERTELSEN ILLUSTRATION ALICE PATTULLO

January for me is a time of good intentions and renewed energy. After the indulgence of the festive period, I am ready to go back out into the garden. And, while it may not look like it on the surface, the same is true of the vegetable garden. As the days start to lengthen, almost imperceptibly at first, so the focus begins to shift from the ending of one growing season to the beginning of the next.

All that said, this is midwinter and opportunities to get out into the garden may be few and far between. I find that this is the perfect time to get machinery serviced and to deal with any tools that need to be sent away for sharpening or repair. Others I will tend to myself, cleaning with wire wool, restoring blunt edges and oiling wooden handles with linseed oil.

On the days when the weather does permit, I love to get outside in the cold, fresh air, building up an appetite for all those soups and stews. Pruning fruit trees and bushes – whether they are in the ground or in pots – is the perfect job for this time of year, when there is little else to do in the garden. Plants are dormant, and if the soil is good and hard under a layer of frost, so much the better. There is little more satisfying than looking back at a row of neatly pruned trees or bushes, all ready and waiting to burst back into life once more.

WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR CROPS

Leeks, Swiss chard and brassicas should all be cropping well. Provided the weather has not been too unkind you may even have salad crops. I have found curly parsley to be a star performer over the past couple of years. It's vigorous, robust and actually seems to get more flavoursome as the winter progresses.

This is also a good time to be making use of all the summer and autumn crops you stashed away in the freezer. Apples and soft fruit can be used for cakes, pies and crumbles, and nothing brightens up a stew or braise like a few tomatoes. It is wonderful to be able to call on this source of vitamins and freshness in the depths of winter, and it also assists in my annual project to clear the freezer completely by spring, ready for the next season's haul.

But a favourite recipe focuses on one of the true stars of the season, kale. This will be at its finest after a cold snap, when the low temperatures have turned some of the starches to sugars. I use it to make vegetable crisps, flavoured with sea salt and lemon that are the perfect, pre-dinner snack. □

You can find Aaron's delicious recipe for crispy kale with sea salt and lemon at gardensillustrated.com/recipes

Jobs for January

There is not enough space here to go into too much detail about pruning, but as a general guide, you are looking to remove any dead or diseased material and any branches that are crossing on fruit trees. With bushes such as gooseberries and redcurrants, the goal is to create an open, 'goblet' shape that allows air to circulate. With blackcurrants, the canes you are removing should be cut down to the ground rather than just being shortened. With all fruit, look to remove the older wood – anything more than three years old – and leave the younger, more vigorous growth.

While pruning, remove any remaining fruit from trees and bushes to guard against brown rot and other fungal diseases.

Good hygiene is an effective way of dealing with slugs and snails, too. Keep removing old leaves from leafy crops such as kale, Swiss chard and cabbage, and if you are growing in pots, check underneath and around these too.

If you have managed to get the winter digging out of the way, take the opportunity to have a general tidy up. By all means keep a pile of leaves and twigs for insects and spiders to overwinter, but this is the perfect time to tidy edges and get rid of any unwanted mess that has built up over the summer and autumn. Leaves can be turned into leaf mould and all other green waste added to the compost heap.

If you do need to work on the soil, put boards down first, so that you can avoid stepping on the soil itself. Old scaffolding boards are ideal, sprinkled with a little grit to stop you slipping. This will help to spread your weight and avoid compacting the soil.

Keep an eye on the weather forecast and be ready with the fleece if it looks like the temperature is going to drop much below zero. Celeriac is a great example of a winter crop that will do much better if given a little protection from the worst of the weather. Likewise with rhubarb and artichokes – a strong wind can easily blow away that protective mulch you applied back in the autumn, so do check and add another layer if needed.

Keep checking on any stored fruit and vegetables to make sure they are still free from rot and safe from predators. As the winter stretches on, so interest among the rodent community will grow.

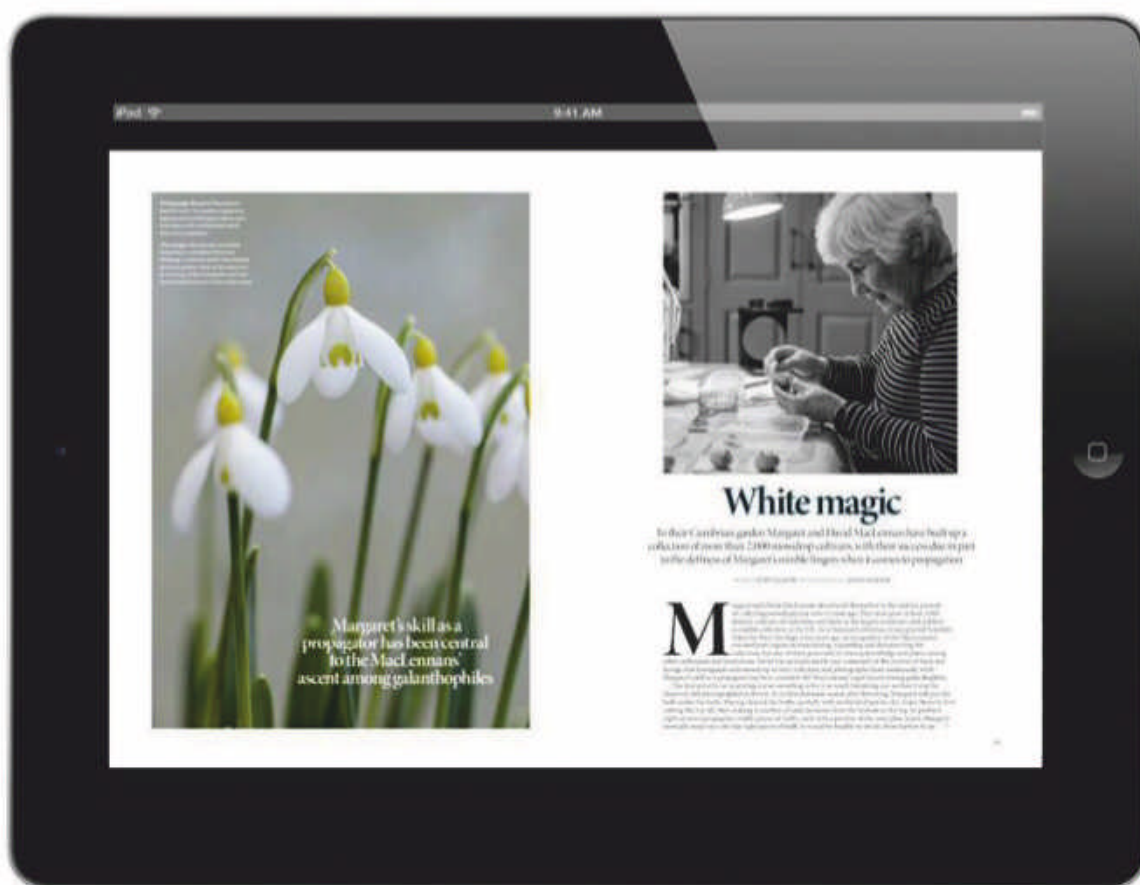
Finally, if you haven't already, do get your seed order in. If you leave it too late you will find the choice is very limited.

GARDENS

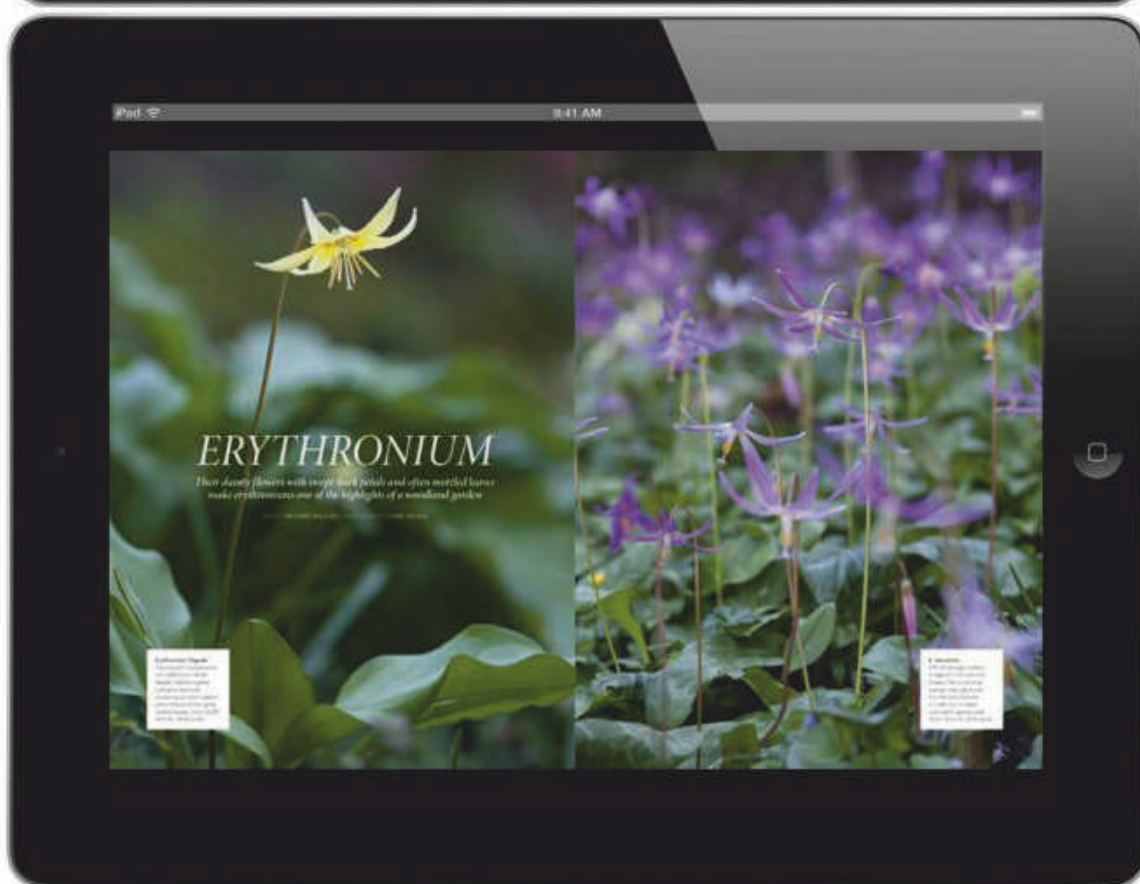
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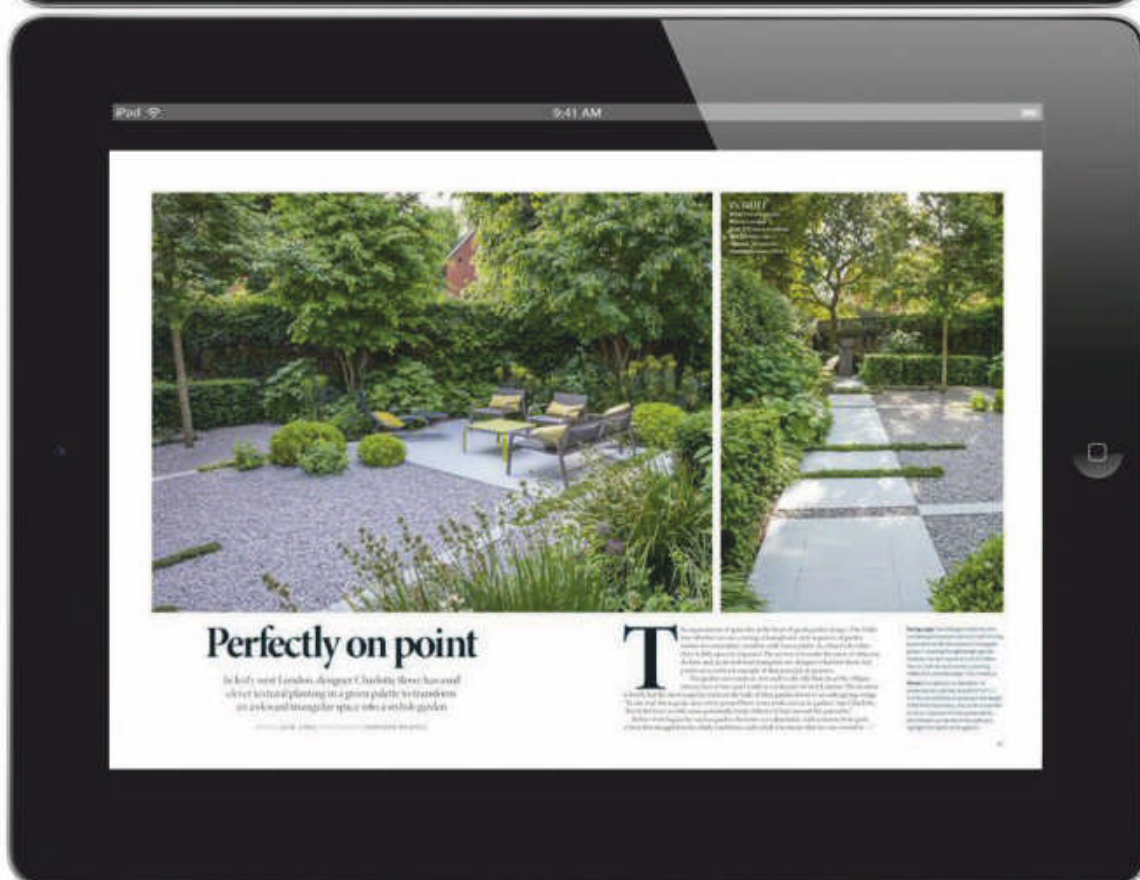




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Planning for the future

Pioneering breakthrough treatments, funded by Cancer Research UK, have used techniques familiar to many plant propagators

If you're planning to introduce a bareroot tree to your garden this winter, the chances are the tree you plant will have been grafted on to new rootstock. It's a propagation technique gardeners have used for centuries to ensure a cultivar is identical to its source, but it's also a method breeders use to control the vigour and size of a tree and to manage several soil-borne diseases.

A similar approach is now offering a novel way to treat cancer. Gene editing – in which DNA is inserted, deleted, modified or replaced in a living organism – is a technique that is causing a great deal of excitement among cancer researchers. It has the potential to make treatments kinder, and may one day help correct inherited faulty genes. At present it is allowing scientists to make impressive advances against cancer, including the development of immunotherapy, a cancer treatment that works by encouraging the body's own immune system to attack cancer cells.

But while the need for research is as urgent as ever, over the past year COVID-19 has hit Cancer Research UK hard. Opportunities for fundraising have

reduced and, right now, future research is at risk. Gifts in Wills help secure future income for the charity, and in turn, mean research can continue to save lives for generations to come.

Pledge to give

If you can pledge to leave a gift in your Will to Cancer Research UK, you can help beat cancer for future generations. Cancer Research UK will join you by pledging that researchers will do all they can to make the breakthroughs that will make this possible. More than a third of Cancer Research UK's research is funded by gifts in Wills; they're a vital part of the fight against cancer and without these

gifts a lot of Cancer Research UK's life-saving research couldn't happen. Cancer Research UK is so grateful to all the amazing people who help in this way; whether you choose to leave a specific amount or item, or to inflation-proof your gift by leaving a percentage of your estate to fund its research.

The tree you plant this winter will last for many years to come; it's your gift to future generations. As the great landscape gardener Russell Page once wrote: 'To plant trees is to give body and soul to one's dreams of a better world.' To leave a gift in your Will to Cancer Research UK is your chance to turn dreams of a better world into reality. Together we will beat cancer.

To find out more, request a free Gifts in Wills Guide. Visit cruk.org/willsguide or call 0800 077 6644.



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Cancer Research UK is a registered charity in England and Wales (1089464), Scotland (SC041666), the Isle of Man (1103) and Jersey (247)

GARDEN DESIGNERS'



BEAUTIFUL AND USEFUL PLANTS

Our changing climate is already changing the way we garden. But what plants should we grow in this changed world? Must we sacrifice lushness for toughness? We asked five leading designers whose gardens have sustainability at their core for their ideas. Their choices are robust and adaptable plants that will protect soil, lock up carbon and provide food and shelter for wildlife. They range from low-maintenance groundcovers to the evergreen sub-shrubs dry gardening guru Olivier Filippi grows for their allelopathic effects. How amazing that they are all beautiful too.



Conrad Batten

Conrad's plant choices reflect the naturalistic spaces with sustainability at heart that are key to his design ethos, and offer an immersive and transportive experience. conradbattendesign.co.uk



KATIE SPICER

Marian Boswall

Marian's selection includes plants that will protect soil, lock up carbon, and provide food and shelter for wildlife but, most of all, are simply very beautiful. marianboswall.com



RACHEL WARNE

Nigel Dunnett

Nigel's choices are all robust plants with strong character that fit nicely into the layers of naturalistic plantings, and above all have multiple seasons of interest. nigeldunnett.com



CLAIRE TAKACS

Olivier Filippi

A pioneer of drought-tolerant planting, Olivier has selected plants from his Mediterranean garden that are as ornamental as they are functional, and are already grown in UK. jardin-sec.com



Tom Massey

Tom's plant choices are all adaptable species, suitable for a range of locations and for the UK's increasingly extreme weather conditions and challenging garden spaces. tommassey.co.uk



Conrad Batten

1 ASPHODELUS ALBUS

In spring the flower spikes rise from a tight whorl of glaucous strap leaves – the essence of the Mediterranean in a bulb. **Height (H)** 1.2m. **Spread (S)** 30-50cm. **Conditions (C)** Adaptable, prefers alkaline and stony soil; full sun. **Season of interest (SI)** Early summer. **Hardiness rating (HR)** RHS H4, USDA 6a-8b[†].

2 BLECHNUM SPICANT

Known as the hard fern, this tufted evergreen fern helps brighten shady areas and combines well with many other shade-loving plants. **AGM***. **H** 10-50cm. **S** 10-50cm. **C** Poorly drained, humus-rich soil; full sun to part shade. **SI** Year round. **HR** RHS H6, USDA 5a-8b.

3 BRIZA MEDIA

Acts on the muting mauves and scumbling yellows of meadows. A short-lived, quivering, tufted clump of delight. **H** 30-75cm. **S** 10-30cm. **C** Well-drained soil; full sun. **SI** Year round. **HR** RHS H7, USDA 4a-8b.

4 CORYLUS AVELLANA

A deciduous tree with yellow catkins in spring followed by hazel nuts in autumn. Leaves turn a rich yellow before they fall in October. **H** 4-8m. **S** 4-8m. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; part shade to full sun. **SI** Year round. **HR** RHS H6, USDA 4a-8b.

5 CRATAEGUS MONOGYNA

In the spring, the cream flowers of this deciduous tree buzz with life and are followed in autumn by rich berries. When leaves fall they reveal the purple of spiny twigs; each hawthorn has a story told through twisted stem and branch. **H** 4-8m. **S** 4-8m. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; part shade to full sun. **SI** Year round. **HR** RHS H7, USDA 4a-7b.

6 DAUCUS CAROTA

The wild carrot's white umbels, occasionally with a blush that swirls around a central purple pin, froth through high-summer plantings. Seeds sprout green in autumn's nest-like seedheads. **H** 30-75cm. **S** 30cm. **C** Well-drained soil; full sun. **SI** Spring to autumn. **HR** RHS H7.

7 DIGITALIS CANARIENSIS

Burnt-orange, flame-flicked flowers with an apricot blush, rise from deep-green leaves on woody, stiff stems. The spires of bell-shaped flowers grow to varying heights creating candelabra-style colour. **H** 75cm-1.5m. **S** 75cm-1m. **C** Rich soil; sun and shelter, frost tender. **SI** Summer. **HR** RHS H2.

8 GERANIUM NODOSUM

In spring the young leaves of this knotted cranesbill unfurl like stretched hands. The pink petals, which have a metallic sheen, have a curious swaying habit. An excellent groundcover for the dappled shade of a tree. **H** 10-50cm. **S** 10-50cm. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; full sun to full shade. **SI** Spring to autumn. **HR** RHS H5. ▷

[†]Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. Hardiness ratings given where available.

2, 4, 6 & 8 JASON INGRAM; 3 RICHARD BLOOM.



6

Daucus carota's white umbels, occasionally blushed and swirled around a centre purple pin, froth through high summer plantings

CONRAD BATTEN



13

▷ 9 *HOLBOELLIA LATIFOLIA*

Known as the sausage vine for its sausage-shaped, fruits in autumn, this vigorous evergreen climber carries flowers through early spring that have the sweetest fragrance. Adaptable, but best in part shade and needs some sun for flowers. **H** 4-8m. **S** 2.5-8m. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; full sun to full shade. **SI** Year round. **HR** RHS H4.

10 *LOTUS HIRSUTUS*

Semi-evergreen shrub with soft, hairy grey foliage you can't resist brushing the back of your hands against. Clustered white and pink-tinted flowers run to chocolate seed capsules. AGM. **H** 50cm-1m. **S** 50cm-1m. **C** Well-drained soil; full sun. **SI** Year round. **HR** RHS H4.

11 *LUZULA SYLVATICA*

An evergreen perennial sedge that forms clumps of ribbon leaves, edged with hairs. The open flowers rise above the foliage in May and June on stiff stalks. **H** 50cm-1m. **S** 50cm-1m. **C** Moist, rich, poorly drained soil; part to full shade. **SI** Year round. **HR** RHS H7.

12 *MALVA MOSCHATA*

Known as musk mallow, this perennial creates a flutter presence in a meadow planting, or can be a shadow player on steps or by a wall. Its veined, torn-edged flowers are a middling pink. **H** 50-90cm. **S** 20-50cm. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; full sun. **SI** Spring to autumn. **HR** RHS H5, USDA 3a-8b.

13 *MYRTUS COMMUNIS*

Brush this evergreen shrub and you'll be treated to a delicious spiced aroma. Its pointed leaves, which shimmer after the rain, contrast with puffs of fluffed cream flowers in late summer followed by dark berries. AGM. **H** 1.5-3m. **S** 1.5-3m. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; full sun. **SI** Year round. **HR** RHS H4, USDA 8a-10b.

14 *PERSICARIA AMPLEXICAULIS* 'BLACKFIELD'

Blood-red flowers, carried on long, ranging stalks, work brilliantly as paint flicks of colour through grasses. Loved by pollinators, this clump-forming perennial has a long flowering period, and offers interest even when not in flower, especially in autumn when the trowel-shaped leaves take on chromatographic colour. **H** 50cm-1m. **S** 50cm-1m. **C** Poorly drained, moist soil; full sun. **SI** Spring to autumn. **HR** RHS H7, USDA 4a-7b.

15 *PRUNUS CERASIFERA*

In early spring, the cherry plum offers clouds of delicate, pink-tinged white blossom, while even the hawthorn still slumbers. Followed by edible plum-like fruits in autumn. Dark-grey speckled bark, develops fissures with age. **H** 8-12m. **S** 8m. **C** Adaptable but best in moist but well-drained soil; full sun or part shade. **SI** Spring and autumn. **HR** RHS H6, USDA 5a-8b.

16 *ROSA* 'NOISETTE CARNÉE'

A climbing rose that is often still flowering at the end of November. Its small clusters of warm pink

blossoms are held on mid-green leaves. The clove scent is so delicious you simply want to close your eyes and drink it in. AGM. **H** 2-3m. **S** 3m. **C** Rich, moisture-retentive soil; part shade to full sun. **SI** Spring to autumn. **HR** RHS H4.

17 *ROSMARINUS OFFICINALIS* 'POINTE DU RAZ'

The tufted, flicked pillow hair stems of this aromatic shrub grow into a knotty, twisted mound that makes a great groundcover or trailing plant. In May and June it is topped with clear violet-blue flowers that are excellent added to a rocket salad. **H** 10-90cm. **S** 10-90cm. **C** Dry, well-drained soil; full sun. **SI** Year round. **HR** RHS H4.

18 *RUMEX ACETOSA*

The common sorrel throws up skyward wires of toasted-red flowers from mid to late summer. A low green presence, with apple-tasting leaves. Use it to stitch planting schemes together. **H** 50-75cm. **S** 10cm. **C** Well-drained soil; part shade to full sun. **SI** Summer. **HR** RHS H7, USDA 3a-7b.

19 *SARCOCOCCA CONFUSA*

Known as sweet box, this evergreen shrub is a winter enchanter, when all is quiet. A plant to linger by, and take in its sweet aroma on cold days when the temptation is to hurry on your way. The white tufted flowers hug the stem nestled in the leaf crook. **H** 1.5-2.5m. **S** 1-2m. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; full to part shade. **SI** Year round. **HR** RHS H5.

20 *SYMPHYTUM* 'HIDCOTE BLUE'

From crumpled leaves rise bell-like flowers, held in a cluster. Warm pink in bud, they open to light ink blue, bringing early delight to bees. Easily propagated by root cuttings, it is an excellent groundcover but can be tricky to dig out as any small section of root left behind can sprout a new plant. AGM. **H** 30-50cm. **S** 50-75cm. **C** Moist soil; sun or part shade. **SI** Spring and summer. **HR** RHS H7, USDA 4a-8b.

21 *THALICTRUM* 'ELIN'

Leaves push from the ground in early spring, dark purple in their first flush before mellowing to a more glaucous green. The flowers rise and sway on tall stems, creating a haze of lavender-pink flower that demands to be stroked. AGM. **H** 1.5-2.5m. **S** 50cm-1m. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; part shade. **SI** July and August. **HR** RHS H7.

Marian Boswall

22 *AGASTACHE* 'BLACKADDER'

A member of the hyssop family, this perennial has long been used in herbal medicine as an antiseptic. This dark, giant cultivar is the most hardy and has edible flowers that go on for months and are always covered in bees. Resistant to drought and also happy in clay it makes a great vertical accent. **H** 70cm. **S** 50cm. **C** Well-drained, moderately fertile soil; full sun. **SI** June to November. **HR** RHS H4, USDA 6a-9b.



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23 *ALLIUM SCHUBERTII*

These enormous, lilac-coloured allium flowers look fabulously quirky in any border but are also great bee plants. The seedheads dry extremely well, creating super sustainable Christmas decorations. A perennial bulb. **H** 1m. **S** 1m. **C** Moist, well-drained soil; full sun or partial shade. **SI** April to May. **HR** RHS H4, USDA 5a-8b.

24 *ARBUTUS UNEDO*

Flowering in winter this small, evergreen tree or large shrub is a useful forage plant for brave bees out on a cold sunny day. Its edible strawberry-like fruits make it a great permaculture tree to add the mid layer of a forest garden. **H** 5m. **S** 5m. **C** Moist, well-drained soil; full sun. **SI** September to January. **HR** RHS H5, USDA 7a-10b.

25 *CALAMINTHA NEPETA*

A bridesmaid for the front of every sunny border. A perennial from the Mediterranean, it does well on chalk and sand, and is also happy on clay. Loved by bees and caterpillars, it is deliciously aromatic so less loved by rabbits. **H** 30cm. **S** 45cm. **C** Well-drained, moderately fertile soil; full sun to partial shade. **SI** May to November. **HR** RHS H5, USDA 5a-7b.

26 *CAMASSIA QUAMASH*

A brilliant perennial bulb to naturalise in a meadow setting. The dark-blue spires above narrow leaves are loved by bees and need very little attention, spreading gradually by seed if they are happy. **H** 60cm. **S** 50cm-1m. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; full sun or partial shade. **SI** April to May. **HR** RHS H4, USDA 5a-9b.

27 *DIGITALIS LUTEA*

A tall and elegant beauty to brighten up a shady spot. Nodding trumpets provide a perfect landing spot for a bee. A short-lived perennial that looks great coming up through ferns and is less promiscuous than the common foxglove *D. purpurea*. AGM. **H** 90cm. **S** 30cm. **C** Well-drained, moderately fertile soil; full sun to part shade. **SI** May to July. **HR** RHS H6.

28 *EPIMEDIUM GRANDIFLORUM* 'LILAFEE'

A key base-layer player that is ideal to cover and protect the soil to prevent erosion from heavy rain, and lock in carbon. This epimedium holds its elegant pink flowers above the foliage, just cut them back in early spring before flowering. A super easy plant for shade. **H** 25cm. **S** 30cm. **C** Humus-rich, moist well-drained soil; part shade. **SI** Year round. **HR** RHS H5, USDA 5a-8b.

29 *IRIS* 'BENTON NIGEL'

A pop of deep-blue colour that appears just when we need it, this elegant Cedric Morris iris is from the justly famous Benton stable of irises. These are less showy than modern bearded irises, and once you're smitten with their subtle colours, I guarantee you'll find yourself wanting to collect all the colours. **H** 1m. **S** 40cm. **C** Light, well-drained soil; full sun. **SI** April to June. **HR** RHS H4. ▶





33

▷ 30 *LINUM PERENNE*

A blue to stop you in your tracks, this lovely little perennial flax speaks of summer skies and linen frocks. Great for a gravel garden or dry front of border, it's hardy but looks so delicate with large heads on slender stems. **H** 50cm. **S** 40cm. **C** Light, well-drained soil; full sun. **SI** June to August. **HR** RHS H4, USDA 5a-8b.

31 *MAHONIA EURYBRACTEATA* SUBSP. *GANPINENSIS* 'SOFT CARESS'

The winter scent of a warm mahonia is such a waft of 'welcome home'. This softer version of the shrub lacks the strident architecture of the usual mahonias and is easy to fit into any scheme. Good winter bee forage. AGM. **H** 60cm. **S** 12m. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; full sun to part shade. **SI** April to June. **HR** RHS H4, USDA 7a-10b.



34

32 *MALUS* 'EVERESTE'

The humble crab apple finds a home in nearly every garden I design. In late winter the birds mob the pretty fruits when all else is gone. In spring, a daily visit to inhale the scent and listen to the bees is food for the soul. AGM. **H** 4-8m. **S** 4-8m. **C** Moist, well-drained soil; full sun or part shade. **SI** April to May. **HR** RHS H6, USDA 4a-8b.

33 *NIGELLA DAMASCENA*

This hardy annual is so simple and yet so complex, with a centre like a passion flower and stunning seedheads too – a firm favourite for dry gardens especially. Great for bees, this is an annual that easily self-seeds, and the seeds are edible too. **H** 45cm. **S** 25cm. **C** Light, well-drained soil; full sun. **SI** June to November. **HR** RHS H3, USDA 2a-11.



35

34 *ORIGANUM* 'KENT BEAUTY'

Very sweet nectar makes this a bee and butterfly magnet, and the unusual pink flowers drip down among bracts like hops, making it a very Kentish plant. Great for pots and window boxes where the scent can drift in when brushed. AGM. **H** 30cm. **S** 20cm. **C** Light, well-drained soil; full sun. **SI** July to September. **HR** RHS H4, USDA 6a-9b.

35 *ORLAYA GRANDIFLORA*

If you have only one annual, this has to be it. The most delicate of umbels that threads up through the border or in the gravel garden, pure white and brimming with forage for pollinators right to the first frosts. A hardy annual it self-seeds in light soil. AGM. **H** 60cm. **S** 60cm. **C** Light, well-drained soil; full sun. **SI** June to October. **HR** RHS H7.

36 *PHACELIA TANACETIFOLIA*

A plant that helps feed both the soil and the bees. *Phacelia* is a pretty, green manure that you cut down while in flower to allow the nutrients to stay below. It will hum with beneficial insects all summer, a fast groundcover and prolific self-seeder. **H** 1.2m. **S** 45cm. **C** Any fertile soil; full sun. **SI** June to September. **HR** RHS H4.



36

37 *PRUNELLA VULGARIS*

An easily overlooked, but key wildflower meadow plant. Self heal is also an essential healing herb and soil-knitting stalwart in the sward. Drink it in an infusion, or leave for the bees. **H** 20cm. **S** 20cm. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; full sun or partial shade. **SI** April to August. **HR** RHS H5.

38 *ROSA* 'DUNWICH ROSE'

A shrub rose that looks just as at home in a wild garden as it does in a more polite setting. Single, creamy flowers are stunningly simple and a perfect landing spot for pollinators. In the autumn dark-blue hips provide a real talking point and food for birds too. **H** 60cm. **S** 1.2m. **C** Moist, well-drained soil; full sun or partial shade. **SI** April to June. **HR** RHS H6, USDA 3a-9b.

39 *RUDBECKIA OCCIDENTALIS* 'GREEN WIZARD'

A tough prairie perennial that does well in most places including heavy soils in sun. The unusual cone heads are food for butterflies and bees and the seedheads stand through the winter attracting goldfinches and look striking against a low, winter sun. **H** 1.2m. **S** 60cm. **C** Any fertile soil; sun or part shade. **SI** August to October. **HR** RHS H7.

40 *SAMBUCUS NIGRA*

Small tree or shrub. A beautiful addition to any sustainable garden. The pretty, spring flowers and deep-purple autumn fruits are both delicious and used medicinally. Plus great forage for wildlife. **H** 4m. **S** 3m. **C** Moist, well-drained soil; full sun. **SI** Spring and autumn. **HR** RHS H6, USDA 5a-8b.

41 *SELINUM WALLICHIANUM*

With masses of starry parsley heads above pretty, fern-like, cut leaves, this is a delightful froth of bee fodder for any border. Its red stems look wonderful with *Sanguisorba* 'Tanna' bobbing through. A medicinal plant in the permaculture garden. AGM. **H** 1m. **S** 1m. **C** Moist, well-drained soil; full sun. **SI** July to September. **HR** RHS H6, USDA 6b-10b.

42 *VIBURNUM CARLESII*

With a perfume to turn heads in early summer, this is my favourite of this useful genus. Flowers are white to pink in pom-poms with red edges, and are loved by bees. The glossy green leaves turn red edged in autumn. A fabulous mid layer shrub. **H** 1.8m. **S** 2m. **C** Moist, well-drained soil; full sun to full shade. **SI** April to July. **HR** RHS H6 USDA 4a-7b.

Nigel Dunnett

43 *ACTAEA* 'QUEEN OF SHEBA'

Striking, dark purple-black foliage and arching racemes of scented white flowers in late summer – a long-season plant of great value. Really special gem for shade. **H** 1.5m. **S** 60cm. **C** Moist soil; sun to part shade. **SI** Spring to autumn. **HR** RHS H4, USDA 4a-8b. ▷



The single, creamy flowers of *Rosa* 'Dunwich Rose' are stunningly simple and a perfect landing spot for pollinators

MARIAN BOSWALL



Dianthus carthusianorum, with small, vibrant pink flowers on long stems, is a real go-to plant for dry meadow and steppe plantings

NIGEL DUNNETT

▷ **44 AGAPANTHUS 'WHITE HEAVEN'**

Really large heads of pure-white flowers in late summer over evergreen foliage. These are so exotic, but what I really like, in addition, are the papery seedheads and prominent pure black seeds, adding so much extra value. **H** 1m. **S** 50cm. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; sun with some shelter. **SI** Summer to autumn. **HR** RHS H4, USDA 7a-10b.

45 AMMI MAJUS

Produces beautiful, billowing clouds of pure white from June through to September. A hardy annual that is easy from direct sowings outside in spring. Looks lovely scattered through perennials. **AGM**. **H** 1m. **S** 50cm. **C** Well-drained soil; sun or half-shade. **SI** Summer. **HR** RHS H6.

46 ANEMONE X HYBRIDA 'HONORINE JOBERT'

Pure-white flowers in virtually never-ending abundance – starting in July and going on into November at head height. Perfect for bringing light into shady places. Needs plenty of space of course. **AGM**. **H** 1m. **S** 50cm. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; sun or part shade. **SI** Year round. **HR** RHS H7, USDA 4a-8b.

47 ASTER X FRIKARTII 'MÖNCH'

Is this the longest-flowering aster? Probably. It starts in August, and is often still going in November. The plants are open and quite floppy, but there's no need to support them if you use them among plants they can weave through. **AGM**. **H** 60cm. **S** 50cm. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; full sun. **SI** Summer to autumn. **HR** RHS H7, USDA 6a-10b.

48 ASTILBE CHINENSIS VAR. TAQUETII 'PURPURLANZE'

What a true multi-season plant! Its leaves emerge cherry-red in spring and then develop into lovely ferny foliage. The flower spikes in bud are beautiful, the purple-pink flowers shine, and the seedheads stand all winter long. **AGM**. **H** 1m. **S** 50cm. **C** Moist soil; full sun. **SI** Year round. **HR** RHS H7, USDA 4a-8b.

49 CALAMAGROSTIS BRACHYTRICHA 'MONA'

A wonderful, medium-size grass that looks good virtually every day of the year. The shoots emerge olive green, with purple leaf and flower stems. The silvery-grey, fluffy flowerheads are pink-tinged and it bleaches out perfectly all winter. **H** 1m. **S** 1m. **C** Well-drained soil that is not too dry; sun or partial shade. **SI** Year round. **HR** RHS H6, USDA 4a-9b.

50 DIANTHUS CARTHUSIANORUM

A real go-to plant for dry meadow and steppe plantings. Produces heads of small, vibrant, pink flowers on long stems, over several months. Will self-seed around if happy. A green-roof stalwart. **H** 40cm. **S** 30cm. **C** Dry, well-drained soil; full sun. **SI** Spring to summer. **HR** RHS H7.

51 ERIGERON ANNUUS

A real pop-up plant! Delicate, small, white daisy flowers from August to December – really beats any white-flowered aster hands down. Great for mingling with robust perennials. Simply thin out seedlings each year where they're not wanted. **H** 1m. **S** 50cm. **C** Light, well-drained soil; full sun. **SI** Summer to winter. **HR** RHS H6, USDA 2a-7b.

52 GERANIUM PATRICIA (= 'BREMPAT')

Patricia has lime-green young leaves, and an amazingly long flowering time, from early summer through to November, and is almost a vine, sending out weaving branches that wind their way through other plants, popping out all over the place. Great naturalised into a meadow. **AGM**. **H** 50cm. **S** 2m. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; sun or half shade. **SI** Spring to autumn. **HR** RHS H7, USDA 4a-8b.

53 HESPERANTHA COCCINEA 'MAJOR'

There's something very special about the sheer lusciousness of these tall spikes of crimson-red flowers in late summer and early autumn. Nice to mingle among *Rudbeckia fulgida* for a startling combination. **AGM**. **H** 70cm. **S** 30cm. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; sun. **SI** Autumn. **HR** RHS H4, USDA 7a-9b.

54 HEUCHERA VILLOSA 'AUTUMN BRIDE'

Lovely mounds of soft, downy foliage look good from spring through to autumn and then take on fantastic autumn colours. Tall spikes of cream flowers. Works well among open, multi-stem shrubs or trees. **H** 60cm. **S** 40cm. **C** Moist, not too dry soil; sun or half shade. **SI** Spring to autumn. **HR** RHS H6, USDA 3a-8b.

55 HYDRANGEA ASPERA VILLOSA GROUP

Greyish, felted, sensual leaves, purple and white flowers, beautiful flaking bark in the winter and an open structure, this is a magnificent shrub for structuring woodland-edge plantings. **H** 2m. **S** 2m. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; sun or part shade. **SI** Year round. **HR** RHS H5.

56 MISCANTHUS SINENSIS 'SILBERFEDER'

A totally reliable *Miscanthus* that produces masses of flowers – which is what I grow *Miscanthus* for – in autumn. These stay on right through the winter. And it still looks great in January. Very upright plants, and the leaves have a silver mid-rib. **AGM**. **H** 1.5-2m. **S** 1m. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; sun. **SI** Year round. **HR** RHS H6, USDA 4a-9b.

57 NARCISSUS 'ACTAEA'

The flowers of this gorgeous daffodil are oh-so elegant and beautifully scented too. The white flowers are combined with a small, yellow-orange cup that has a darker rim. Lovely in clumps and groups, but naturalised en masse in a meadow it's breath-taking. **AGM**. **H** 30cm. **S** 30cm. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; sun to part shade. **SI** Spring. **HR** RHS H6, USDA 4a-8b. ▷

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► 58 *PRIMULA VULGARIS*

Indispensable herald of the gardening year. And not just for woodland shade: use it as an early flowering base layer among perennial plantings – it feels at home under the taller herbaceous canopy. AGM. **H** 20cm. **S** 20cm. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; full sun to part shade. **SI** Spring. **HR** RHS H7, USDA 4a-8b.

59 *PULMONARIA* 'DIANA CLARE'

I generally don't go for many variegated plants but this – and the very similar *P.* 'Cotton Cool' – is an exception. Its silvery leaves look good from spring to winter and has blue spring flowers. Much easier than hostas AGM. **H** 30cm. **S** 30cm. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; full to part shade. **SI** Year round. **HR** RHS H6.

60 *RHUS TYPHINA* 'DISSECTA'

Like virtually all of my plant choices, this is a virtuoso multi-season plant. An open, multi-stemmed shrub with ferned foliage, and spectacular autumn colour. Suckering isn't really a problem in naturalistic plantings – just cut to the ground along with the perennials, and the whole shrub can be coppiced. AGM. **H** 3m. **S** 2.5m. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; sun. **SI** Year round. **HR** RHS H6, USDA 3a-8b.

61 *RUDBECKIA FULGIDA* VAR. *DEAMII*

One I can't do without. Soft apple-green foliage – much better than all the other cultivars including the better known *R. fulgida* var. *sullivantii* 'Goldsturm' – and yellow flowers with black pincushion centres that last until late autumn. Plus perfect winter skeletons. AGM. **H** 60cm. **S** 40cm. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; full sun or half shade. **SI** Summer to winter. **HR** RHS H6, USDA 3a-9b.

62 *SANGUISORBA* 'BLACKTHORN'

Low mounds of fresh ferny foliage and tall, upright stems holding narrow, strong pink flowers. Self-supporting and see through. Great in a meadowy planting with tall equally see-through *Molinia* cultivars. **H** 1.2m. **S** 40cm. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; full sun to part shade. **SI** Year round. **HR** RHS H7, USDA 4a-8b.

63 *THYMUS* 'JEKKA'

A really vigorous, totally bright, fresh, evergreen thyme that doesn't become gappy or straggly. Ideal for groundcover in dry places, or trailing over walls. Covered in mauve flowers on long stalks in early summer. **H** 20cm. **S** 60cm. **C** Well-drained, neutral to alkaline soil; sun. **SI** Year round. **HR** RHS H6, USDA 5a-9b.

Olivier Filippi

64 *ACHILLEA COARCTATA*

An elegant groundcover from Turkey and the Balkan region with finely cut, silver-grey leaves growing in downy rosettes and contrasting with the bright-yellow flowers. Its strong rhizomes can check erosion on slopes. **H** 30cm. **S** 60cm. **C** Dry, poor soil; full sun. **SI** Year round. **HR** RHS H5. ►

58 BOB G. BBONS / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO. 59 SHARON PEARSON. 61 ANNAICK GU TTENY. 62 & 64 JASON NGRAM. 63 ANNE GILBERT / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO.



Achillea coarctata is an elegant groundcover with finely cut, silver-grey leaves contrasting with bright-yellow flowers

OLIVIER FILIPPI



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▷ 65 *ARBUTUS X THURETIANA*

This *A. andrachne* x *A. canariensis* hybrid is a wonderful strawberry tree for milder climates. Spectacular bark in June: the old orange-red peeling bark reveals a smooth, new, green bark. **H** 8m plus. **S** 4m. **C** Tolerates a wide range of soils; full sun or part shade. **SI** Year round. **HR** RHS H4.

66 *CENTAUREA BELLA*

One of the best evergreen groundcovers for dry gardens and attractive to butterflies. Needs little weeding as the plant releases germination inhibiting compounds (allelopathy). **H** 20cm. **S** 40cm. **C** Tolerates a wide range of soils; full sun or partial shade. **SI** Year round. **HR** RHS H5.

67 *CISTUS X PORPHYREUS* 'PURPLE PATCH'

An attractive new selection bred by Yorkshire *Cistus* specialist Bob Page. Aromatic, evergreen foliage and large, purple flowers with dark blotches. **H** 1m. **S** 1m. **C** Best in poor, stony or sandy, dry soils; full sun. **SI** May to June. **HR** RHS H4.

68 *CONVOLVULUS OLEIFOLIUS*

The narrow, silky silver leaves are covered by a mass of pale-pink flowers in summer. Excellent in coastal gardens, as it's extremely tolerant to salt-laden wind. The plant grows as a dense cushion, perfect in a gravel garden. **H** 30cm. **S** 40cm. **C** Poor, well-drained soil; full sun; **SI** Year round. **HR** RHS H4.

69 *EUPHORBIA RIGIDA*

The striking silver-blue leaves that spiral around the stems take on a pink tinge in winter. Flowerheads stay attractive over a long period; bright-yellow in winter, orange in spring and fading to crimson in early summer. Self-seeds easily. AGM. **H** 30cm. **S** 50cm. **C** Well-drained soil; full sun. **SI** Year round. **HR** RHS H6, USDA 7a-10b.

70 *LINARIA VENTRICOSA*

A 'giant' *Linaria* from the Tizi-n-Test pass in Morocco's High Atlas mountains. Steel blue-silver leaves, strong bushy growth and long spikes with pink-veined, yellow, velvety flowers. **H** 1.5m. **S** 80cm. **C** Best in poor, stony or sandy, dry soils; full sun. **SI** Year round. **HR** RHS H4.

71 *LOMELOSIA MINOANA*

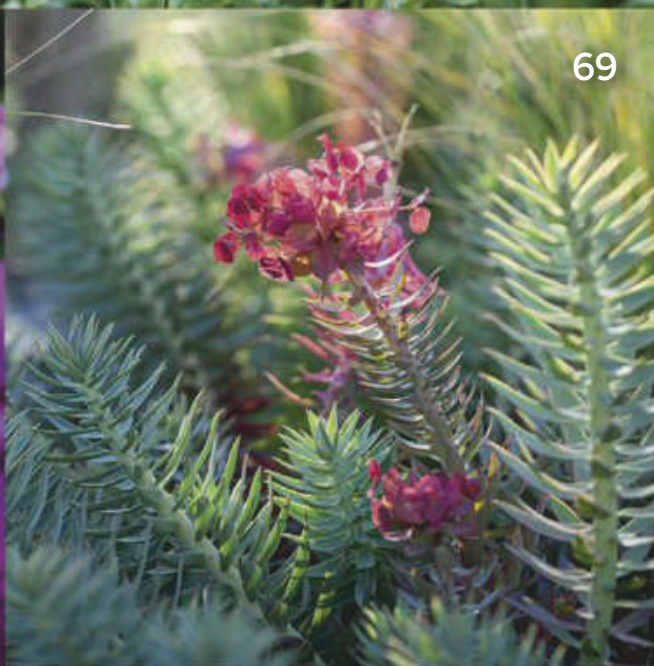
This sub-shrub from southern Crete is probably one of the most attractive plants for dry gardens. Soft, velvety, grey-green foliage and dense mounding habit. The lilac flowers in spring are followed by fluffy seedheads that stay attractive all summer. **H** 80cm. **S** 1.2m. **C** Well-drained, dry soil; full sun or partial shade. **SI** Year round. **HR** RHS H4.

72 *ORIGANUM* 'CLARA'

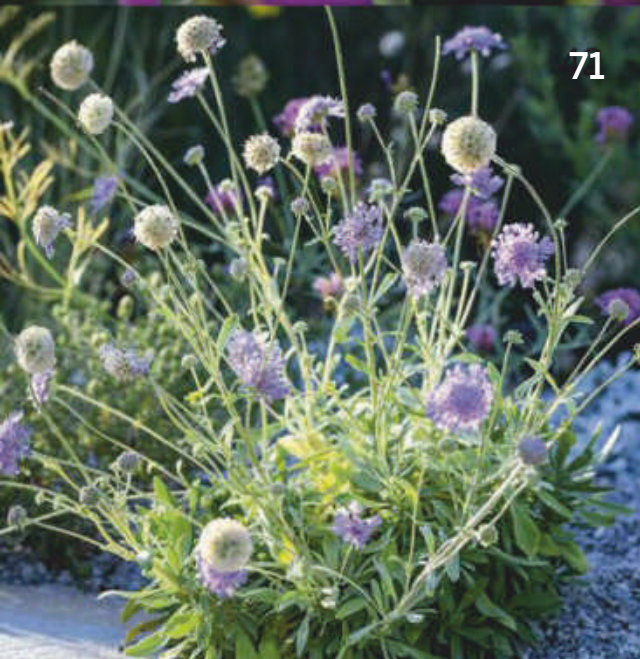
A chance seedling that was found in our garden, this free-flowering hybrid is a cross between *O. syriacum* and *O. majorana* var. *tenuifolium*. Highly aromatic, silver, evergreen foliage, abundant white flowers in early summer, very attractive to insects. **H** 80cm. **S** 60cm. **C** Best in poor, stony or sandy, dry soils; full sun. **SI** Year round. **HR** RHS H4.



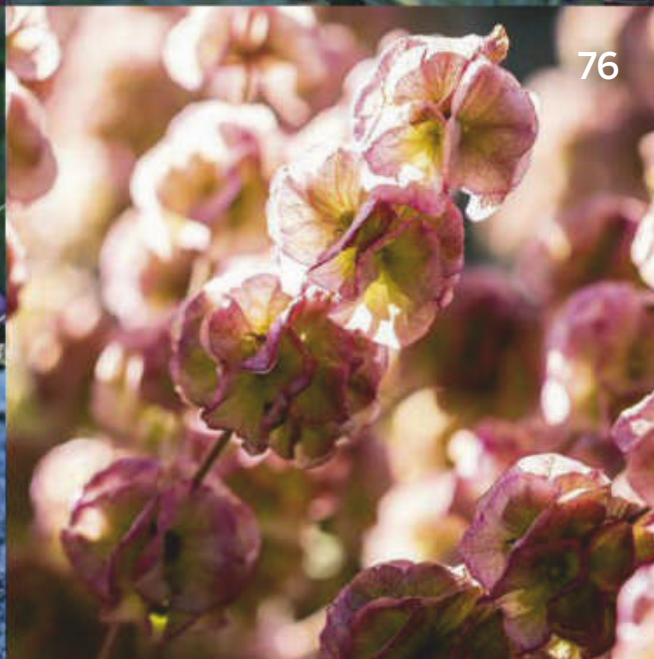
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73 PETROMARULA PINNATA

The rosette of salad-looking leaves – the name *Petromarula* is Greek for ‘rock lettuce’ – produces fast-growing spikes covered with pale-blue flowers. This Cretan species from the Campanulaceae family thrives in the rockery at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. It can be short-lived but it self-seeds easily. **H** 80cm. **S** 60cm. **C** Best in poor, stony or sandy, dry soils; full sun. **SI** Spring. **HR** RHS H4.

74 RETAMA SPHAEROCARPA

A fast-growing shrub with flexible, bushy, silver-coloured vegetation. In early summer, the shrub bends under the weight of thousands of soft golden flowers. The Spanish name, *lluvia de oro*, translates as rain of gold, and gives a good idea of what the plant looks like in bloom. **H** 3m. **S** 1.5m. **C** Tolerates a wide range of soils; full sun. **SI** Year round. **HR** RHS H5.

75 SALVIA DORYSTOECHAS

An aromatic, medicinal perennial, used as a herbal tea in Anatolia, this is a highly desirable plant for a scented garden. White flowers on long spikes from May to July. **H** 60cm. **S** 60cm. **C** Poor, well-drained soil; full sun or partial shade. **SI** Spring to summer. **HR** RHS H4.

76 SALVIA MULTICAULIS

The small, violet flowers of this aromatic perennial, grow out of large crimson calyces. Extremely attractive as a rockery plant or small groundcover for gravel gardens. **AGM**. **H** 25cm. **S** 30cm. **C** Best in poor, stony or sandy, dry soils; full sun. **SI** Spring. **HR** RHS H3.

77 SIDERITIS CYPRIA

This lovely sub-shrub is endemic to the limestone ridges of the Kyrenia Mountains in northern Cyprus. Its whorls of lime-green flowers on reddish stems contrast with the silver-coloured, woolly foliage. Often short-lived but self-seeds freely. **H** 50cm. **S** 30cm. **C** Poor rocky soils, needs excellent drainage; full sun. **SI** Year round. **HR** RHS H4.

78 STACHYS LAVANDULIFOLIA

A tough perennial that is cold and heat tolerant, from Caucasus steppes. Dense, silver foliage, silky whorls of small, lilac flowers. A lovely groundcover for gravel gardens. **H** 25cm. **S** 50cm. **C** Best in poor, stony or sandy, dry soils; full sun. **SI** Year round. **HR** RHS H5.

79 THYMUS MASTICHINA

Mastic thyme, a sub-shrub that originally comes from the mountains of southern Spain, has one of the strongest fragrances among all aromatic plants from the Mediterranean. The nectar produced by the small white flowers is highly attractive to bees and other beneficial pollinating insects. **H** 30cm. **S** 25cm. **C** Poor rocky soils, needs excellent drainage; full sun. **SI** Year round for the fragrant foliage, spring for the flowers. **HR** RHS H4.

Tom Massey

80 ACANTHUS MOLLIS ‘RUE LEDAN’

Dramatic, tall and elegant flower spikes, loved by bees who crawl right inside the trumpet-shaped flowers. Large, dark-green, serrated leaves at the base that will hold though winter in milder areas. Perfect for lighting up shaded areas. **AGM**. **H** 1.5m. **S** 1m. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; sun to part shade or shade. **SI** Summer. **HR** RHS H6, USDA 7a-10b.

81 ASPLENIUM SCOLOPENDRIUM

Seen growing all over the British Isles, this little evergreen fern is great for filling gaps almost anywhere; it will grow in damp rockeries, dry-stone walls or crevices between boulders. **AGM**. **H** 45cm. **S** 45cm. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; part or full shade. **SI** Year round. **HR** RHS H6, USDA 5a-9b.

82 CERINTE MAJOR ‘PURPURASCENS’

Honeywort produces a sweet, honey-flavoured nectar irresistible to bees. It has very unusual bell-shaped, purple flowers, hooded by deep blue-green glaucous leaves. Blooming from spring to autumn, they produce large black seeds that are explosively released, don’t cut back too early and allow it to go to seed if you want it to persist in your garden. **H** 45cm. **S** 30cm. **C** Well-drained soil; sun. **SI** Spring to summer. **HR** RHS H3.

83 DESCHAMPSIA CESPITOSA ‘GOLDTAU’

There are many good *D. cespitosa* cultivars to choose from, but this golden dew (*tau* is German for dew), is one of my favourites. Smaller and more compact than some, it produces a gold haze of gauzy flowers emerging from a buff-green base of slender leaves. Looks amazing planted en masse as a single species, or mixed with airy flowering perennials such as *Sanguisorba* ‘Tanna’. **AGM**. **H** 60cm. **S** 60cm. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; sun or part shade. **SI** Summer to autumn. **HR** RHS H6, USDA 4a-9b.

84 DIGITALIS FERRUGINEA

My favourite foxglove – a real gem that will light up shady spots. Can be biennial or a short-lived perennial. Sends up tall flower spikes with close-set buds that open to short trumpets of orange-yellow flowers with brown veining. Looks great naturalised through ornamental grasses. **AGM**. **H** 1.2m. **S** 30cm. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; shade, part shade or sun. **SI** Summer **HR** RHS H6, USDA 4a-8b.

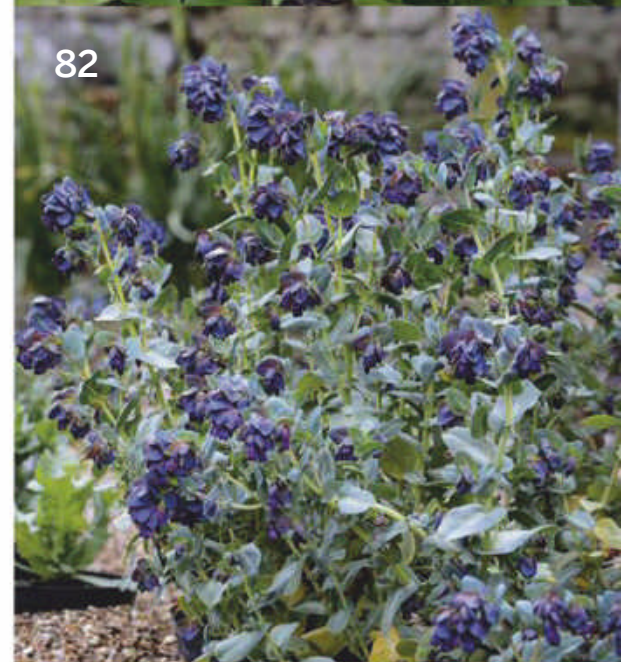
85 DISPORUM LONGISTYLUM ‘NIGHT HERON’

This rare perennial is fantastic for partially shaded or woodland planting areas. Bamboo-like stems of deep purple age to dark green. Narrow, bell-shaped green-cream flowers are followed by purple-black berries. Almost evergreen in mild climates or a sheltered spot but deciduous where temperatures drop lower. Cut back old growth before new purple shoots appear in spring. **AGM** **H** 1.5m. **S** 1m. **C** Moist, humus-rich, well-drained soil; part shade. **SI** Spring to autumn. **HR** RHS H6, USDA 5a-10b. ▶

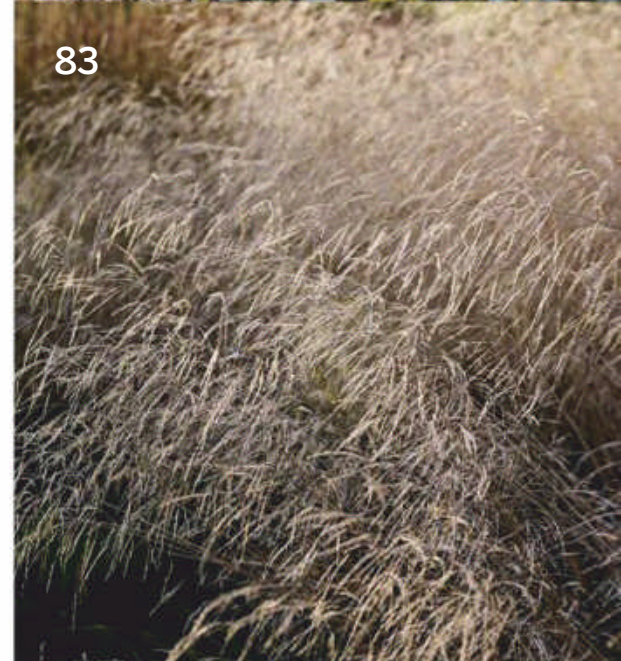
81



82



83



84





86

► 86 *ERYNGIUM YUCCIFOLIUM*

Fantastic for adding drama and an otherworldly feel to a planting scheme. Can be used as a filler to dot through a border, or as a statement in a pot. Protect from winter wet. **H** 1.2m. **S** 1m. **C** Poor to moderately fertile dry soil; full sun. **SI** Summer to autumn. **HR** RHS H4, USDA 3a-8b.

87 *EUONYMUS EUROPAEUS*

Our native spindle comes into its own in autumn when leaves turn bright red and it produces berries that resemble little pink and orange lanterns. Looks stunning growing alongside ornamental grasses. **H** 3m. **S** 3m. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; sun or part shade. **SI** Autumn to winter. **HR** RHS H6, USDA 4a-7b.



87

88 *EUPHORBIA MYRSINITES*

One of my favourites among the many *Euphorbia* species, the broad-leaved, glaucous spurge produces whorls of fleshy leaves on trailing, prostrate stems. Acid-yellow flowers are produced in spring, but this plant has year-round interest. AGM. **H** 15cm. **S** 30cm. **C** Well-drained soil; sun. **SI** Year round. **HR** RHS H5, USDA 5a-9b.

89 *FOENICULUM VULGARE* 'GIANT BRONZE'

Bright-yellow umbels appear on contrasting blue-green stems in mid to late summer, followed by aromatic seeds. The blue-green leaves have feathery bronze tips, which can give salads an aniseed twist. **H** 1.8m. **S** 5m. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; sun. **SI** Summer to autumn. **HR** RHS H4, USDA 4a-9b.



90

90 *HAKONECHLOA MACRA*

Arching, elegant, green foliage that sways gently in the breeze. Fades through red to buff in the autumn; it will hold its foliage all the way through winter and can be cut back in early spring before new growth emerges. AGM. **H** 40cm. **S** 50cm. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; sun or part to full shade. **SI** Summer to autumn. **HR** RHS H7, USDA 5a-9b.

91 *HELLEBORUS ARGUTIFOLIUS*

Luminous-green flower spikes held above dark-green, holly-shaped foliage make this a standout plant. Try dotting through a carpet of *Euphorbia amygdaloides* var. *robbiae*. AGM. **H** 1m. **S** 40cm. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; part to full shade. **SI** Winter to spring. **HR** RHS H5, USDA 6a-8b.

92 *LUZULA NIVEA*

A fantastic sedge ideal for damp shade. Will tolerate very wet and boggy conditions. Dense clusters of arching, white flowers emerge in spring that look beautiful grown en masse. **H** 60cm. **S** 60cm. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; full to part shade. **SI** Spring. **HR** RHS H5.

93 *MATTEUCCIA STRUTHIOPTERIS* 'THE KING'

A fantastic fern. Perfect for water-side bog gardens or swales. Often turns autumnal rusty orange before dying down to ground level; new fronds unfurl in spring. **H** 1.8m. **S** 60cm. **C** Humus-rich, moist but well-drained soil; part to full shade. **SI** Spring to autumn. **HR** RHS H5, USDA 3a-7b.



100

94 *MISCANTHUS SINENSIS*

'YAKUSHIMA DWARF'

Plumes of feathery flowers emerge in summer and persist into the autumn, when this ornamental grass really shines; the foliage turns a beautiful mix of red, bronze and gold. Cut back in early spring before new growth emerges. **H** 80cm. **S** 60cm. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; sun. **SI** Summer to autumn. **HR** RHS H6, USDA 5a-9b.

95 *MOLINIA CAERULEA* 'HEIDEBRAUT'

Fine plumes of dark flowers are held on long vertical stems borne above a basal mound of strap-like leaves. In autumn it turns bright orange-yellow, and has a transparent, ethereal quality. Best where it is backlit by the sun. **H** 1.2m. **S** 60cm. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; sun or part shade. **SI** Summer to autumn. **HR** RHS H7, USDA 4a-9b.

96 *PENSTEMON MENSARUM*

A Colorado native wildflower that has intense cobalt-blue flowers held above an evergreen rosette of shiny green foliage. After flowering cut off the flower spikes right at their base, which will encourage a profusion of flowers next spring. **H** 40cm. **S** 25cm. **C** Well-drained soil; sun. **SI** Spring to summer. **HR** RHS H5.

97 *PUNICA GRANATUM* VAR. *NANA*

Bright-red flowers emerge in the summer followed by miniature red pomegranate fruits. Leaves turn bright-yellow in autumn before dropping and leaving the fruit to shine. AGM. **H** 1.2m. **S** 1.2m. **C** Well-drained soil; sun. **SI** Summer to winter. **HR** RHS H3, USDA 7a-11.

98 *SALVIA ARGENTEA*

A show-stopping biennial or short-lived perennial with incredible, candelabra-shaped panicles of pure-white flowers. Ruffled silvery-grey foliage provides interest before flowering. **H** 90cm. **S** 60cm. **C** Well-drained soil; sun. **SI** Summer. **HR** RHS H5, USDA 5a-8b.

99 *TRIFOLIUM OCHROLEUCON*

The sulphur clover looks like a giant form of common clover with sulphur-yellow flowers loved by bees and butterflies. Native, but now quite rare, so grow this at home and help preserve the species. **H** 50cm. **S** 50cm. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; sun or part shade. **SI** Summer. **HR** RHS H7.

100 *VERONICASTRUM* 'FASCINATION'

Invaluable for adding interest to the middle or back of a border, this tall perennial bares long, thin, leafy stems topped with candelabra-like racemes of lilac-blue flowers that bumble bees love. Seedheads offer interest well into winter. **H** 1.8m. **S** 50cm. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; sun or part shade. **SI** Summer to autumn. **HR** RHS H7, USDA 3a-8b. □

Reader offer

Gardens Illustrated readers can enjoy a 10 per cent discount on plants at Crocus.co.uk, including many of those featured here. Turn to page 106 for details.

86 NICK CRONIN / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO. 87 MICHAELE GRANT PLANTS / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO. 90 RACHEL WARNE. 92 MARYKE DE R. DDER. 100 TOR E. CHUGG.



Luzula nivea is a fantastic sedge with dense clusters of arching white flowers in spring that look beautiful grown en masse

TOM MASSEY



Perfectly on point

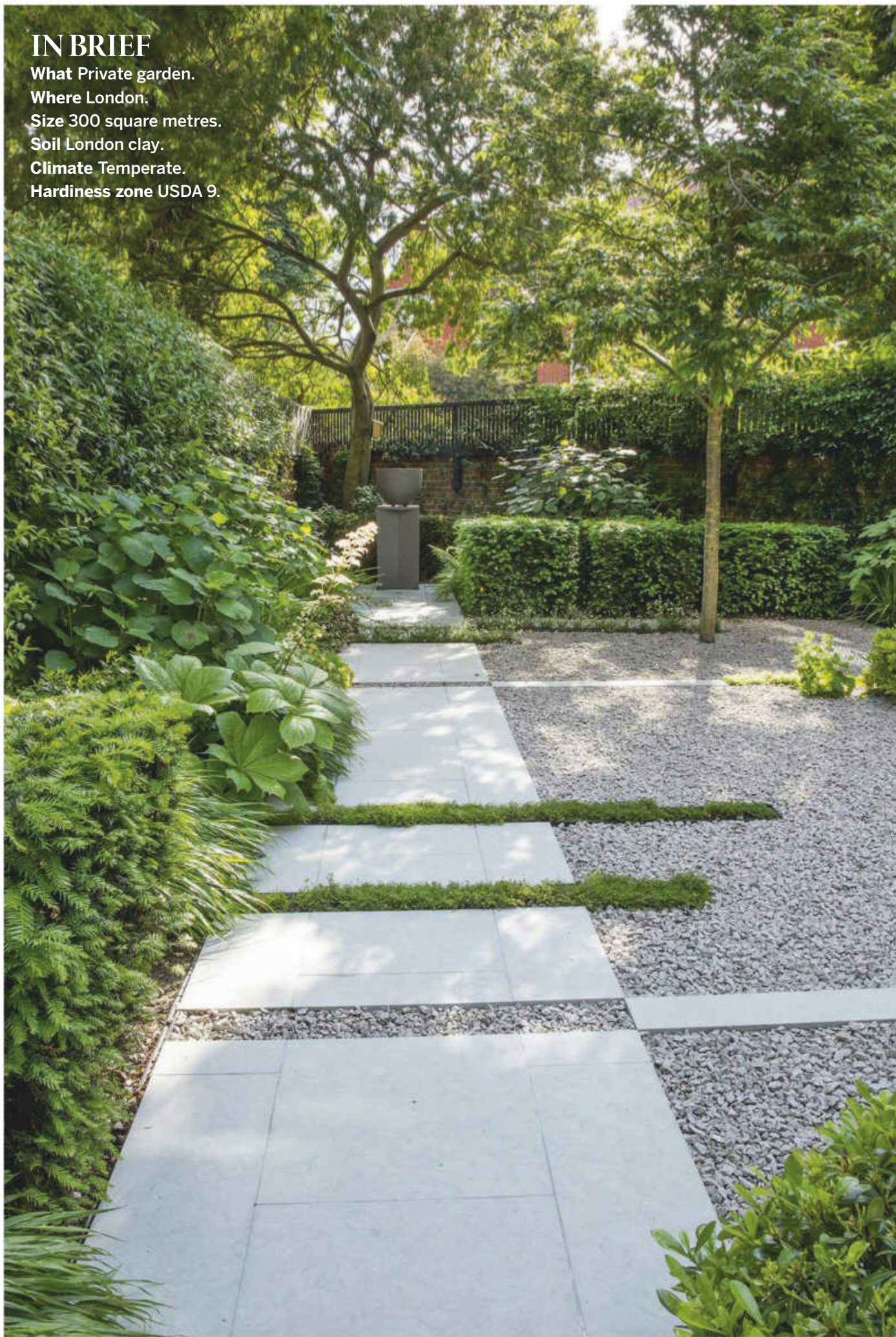
In leafy west London, designer Charlotte Rowe has used clever textural planting in a green palette to transform an awkward triangular space into a stylish garden

WORDS JODIE JONES PHOTOGRAPHS MARIANNE MAJERUS



IN BRIEF

What Private garden.
Where London.
Size 300 square metres.
Soil London clay.
Climate Temperate.
Hardiness zone USDA 9.



The organisation of space lies at the heart of good garden design. This holds true whether you are creating a Sissinghurst-style sequence of garden rooms or a naturalistic meadow with mown paths. So, what to do when there is little space to organise? The answer is to make the most of what you do have and, in an awkward triangular site, designer Charlotte Rowe has produced a textbook example of that principle in practice.

The garden surrounds an Arts and Crafts villa that sits at the oblique intersection of two quiet roads in a leafy part of west London. The location is lovely, but the streetscape has reduced the bulk of their garden down to an unforgiving wedge. “In one way this is great, since every ground floor room looks out on to garden,” says Charlotte, “but it did leave us with some potentially tricky ribbons of land around the perimeter.”

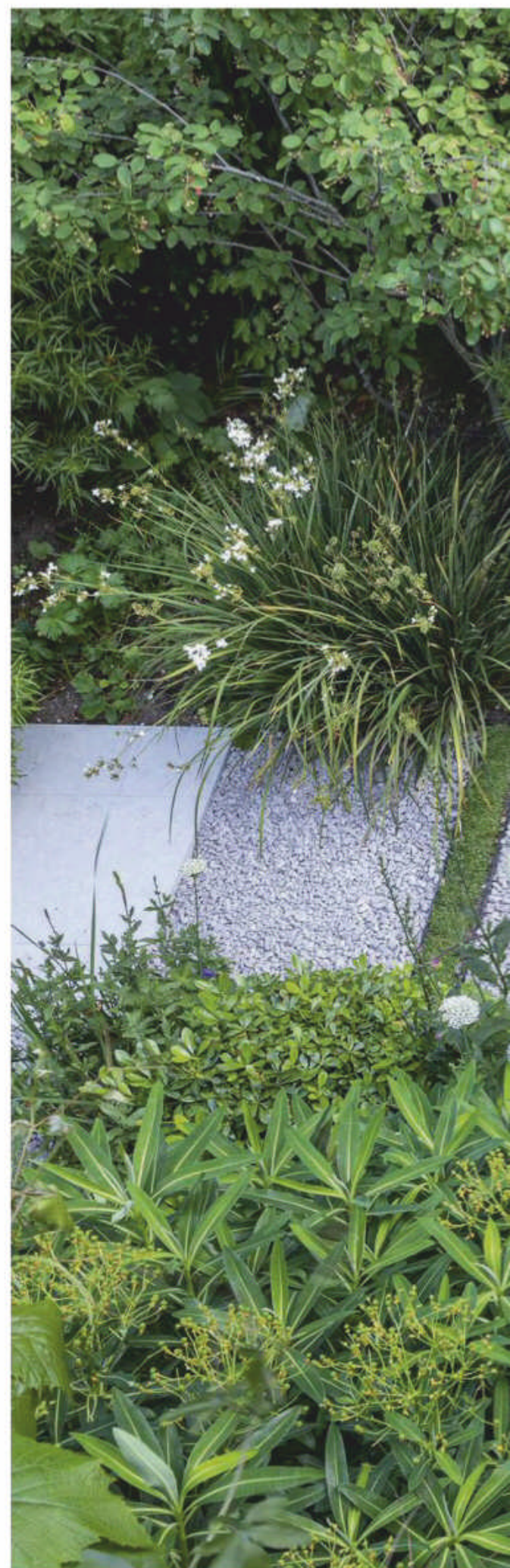
Before work began the various garden elements were disjointed, with a narrow front path, a lawn that struggled in the shady conditions, and a dark rear terrace that no one wanted to ►

Facing page The bold geometric terrace combining limestone slabs and self-binding gravel almost fills the awkward triangular garden, meaning the lightweight garden furniture can be moved around to follow the sun, but dense boundary planting makes the area feel larger than it really is.

Above A sculptural combination of contemporary planter and plinth form a bold focal point that emphasises the length of the front boundary, only to be subverted by strips of gravel and low green plants, which break up the line of the path and highlight the width of the garden.



Above Flanked by the wall of the house next door, a practical gravel path is turned into an extension of the garden with lush, ground-level planting, evergreen climbers and a pair of sculptural urns carefully positioned to form an attractive picture when viewed through the sitting room windows.



▷ use. Charlotte set out to unify these different parts with visual links and conceal the external boundaries to make the garden feel larger than its diminutive 300 square metre reality.

When designing a triangular garden, the trick is to insert the biggest square you can fit in. Essentially, you are creating space within a space then giving it extra bulk and volume by filling the awkward bits at the edges with a mass of plants. If you blur the perimeter, even if that takes up space, you will make the garden feel bigger.

The lawn was replaced by a combination of Bateig Blue limestone slabs, gravel and ribbons of low-growing *Galium odoratum* and *Erigeron karvinskianus*, laid in interconnecting blocks like a monochrome Mondrian. Not only is this a practical all-weather surface but it also introduces another bit of visual trickery to help make the tapering space feel wider than it is.

“I did something similar with the perimeter walkways,” says Charlotte. “First we created elongated vistas with distant focal points. Then we broke up the length laterally, using the same combination of hard landscaping materials and *Galium*, to draw your eye into and across the ▷



Charlotte unified the different parts with visual links and concealed the external boundaries to make the garden feel larger

Planting for maximum impact in minimal space

Working with a limited palette, plant form, leaf texture and seasonal flowers can help to enliven planting schemes. Against a hedge of yew, in this west London garden, repeat combinations of *Hebe stenophylla* and *Hydrangea paniculata* 'Limelight' introduce scale, interwoven with strappy clumps of white-flowered *Libertia grandiflora*, plumes of *Actaea matsumurae* 'White Pearl' and the dainty froth of *Tellima grandiflora* and *Gillenia trifoliata*.

Glossy evergreen *Sarcococca confusa* brings winter fragrance, and *Geranium* Rozanne (= 'Gerwat') and *Aquilegia vulgaris* var. *stellata* 'Black Barlow' add a floral flourish in summer. The elegant white daffodil *Narcissus* 'Thalia' and other bulbs extend the season of interest, yet the whole lot is packed into a bed little more than 1.5m wide.

From deep shade to dappled sun, from the traditional favourite *Rosa* 'Madame Alfred Carrière' to exotic, it-plant *Kirengeshoma palmata*, this diverse planting plan is unified by the rigorous eye of a designer who understands the importance of scale, shape and texture.

Above In the front garden, the planting effect relies more on texture and form than on colour. Honey-scented *Euphorbia mellifera* has space to reach its full potential while on the other side of the path, filigree-leaved *Hebe stenophylla* and strappy *Libertia grandiflora* are combined with a tapestry of lower-growing plants.



The trick with a triangular garden is to insert the biggest square you can fit in, giving it extra volume by filling the awkward bits at the edges

Above Looking back to the house from the pointed tip of the garden, there is a tremendous sense of space despite the fact that this garden is just 300 square metres in its entirety. This is a result of the masterful balance between the open centre, with its geometric combination of slabs and gravel, and the enveloping mass of plants that blurs the outer boundaries.

▷ space.” This clean contemporary hard landscape is offset by large areas of generous planting in a predominantly green and white palette. A surprising number of trees, including two multi-stemmed *Parrotia persica* and a *Prunus x subhirtella* ‘Autumnalis’, and a smart trellis covered in climbers help to screen the garden from neighbouring windows.

There are neat, table-high cubes of yew, an archway of clipped bay and plump tussocks of pitted spore, but the rest of the planting has a slightly shaggy exuberance. Charlotte has also worked hard to ensure that the visual interest extends all round the house, as well as all round the year, and no part of the garden was disregarded. Even the narrow path to the recycling storage area is swathed in roses, camellias and *Alchemilla mollis*.

The previously overshadowed rear terrace has become an intimate outdoor dining room. In the dry and shady bed at the very narrowest part of this triangular garden, Charlotte has underplanted five large specimens of the white *Rhododendron* ‘Madame Masson’ with tough ferns (*Dryopteris filix-mas* and *Dryopteris wallichiana*) and the white *Anemone x hybrida*



‘Honorine Jobert’, and has covered the boundary trellis in the winter-flowering evergreen *Clematis cirrhosa* ‘Wisley Cream’ and fragrant *Trachelospermum jasminoides*.

A once-bare roof terrace opening off the master bedroom is now softened by raised beds filled with lavender and a pair of beautiful multi-stemmed *Cornus mas*. Even the blank side wall of the house next door now makes an elegant picture when viewed through the sitting room windows. In this narrowest of spaces Charlotte positioned two strikingly sculptural planters against a backdrop of close-clipped euonymus and filled the strip where wall meets path with a froth of pale hellebores, hebes and ferns. It is the final proof, in this garden of great ideas, that there is no space too awkward or small to be improved by good design and good planting. □

USEFUL INFORMATION

Find out more about Charlotte's work at charlotterowe.com

Above Opening off the master bedroom, a small flat roof has been transformed into a cossetting retreat, screened by plant-filled raised beds, including masses of lavender and a stunning, multi-stemmed specimen *Cornus mas*, chosen for height, sculptural impact and the dainty yellow flowers that appear on its bare branches at the end of winter.



ERYTHRONIUM

Their dainty flowers with swept-back petals and often mottled leaves make erythroniums one of the highlights of a woodland garden

WORDS RICHARD WILFORD PHOTOGRAPHS TORIE CHUGG

Erythronium 'Pagoda'

This robust *E. tuolumnense* x *E. californicum* 'White Beauty' hybrid is a great cultivar to start with, producing up to ten sulphur-yellow flowers above lightly mottled leaves. 35cm. AGM*. RHS H5, USDA 3a-8b†.



E. revolutum

With its strongly mottled foliage and rich rose-pink flowers, this is a striking species. Naturally found from British Columbia to California, it makes a wonderful garden plant. 30cm. RHS H5, USDA 3a-8b.

T

he flowers of *Erythronium* are unlikely to be mistaken for anything else. Although erythroniums are closely related to tulips there's little obvious resemblance. Growing from small bulbs, the flowers are held on a thin, arching stem and hang downwards, with petals swept back at varying angles. In some the flowers are dart-like with reflexed petals and in others they take the shape of a flared skirt, spreading gracefully outwards. Their natural habitat is often light woodland, forest clearings or shady banks.

Commonly known as dog's tooth violet, the only European species is the familiar *Erythronium dens-canis*. The name comes from the shape of the bulb, which is long and thin, like a canine tooth. There are three species from Asia – *E. caucasicum*, *E. sibiricum* and *E. japonicum* – their names giving away their natural homes. It is in North America where the genus is most diverse, with 24 species found in two distinct ranges: six species from the east and 18 in the west.

Erythroniums typically have just two leaves that are either plain green or mottled with patterns of brown or reddish purple. The flower can be solitary or held on a branching stem with several blooms. *E. americanum* is the most widely grown of the eastern American species, found naturally in woodland from southeast Canada to South Carolina and Oklahoma. It is a small plant with a solitary yellow flower and brown-mottled leaves. This species is vigorously stoloniferous and can form a spreading clump in favourable conditions.

It is from western North America that most cultivated erythroniums originate. Here they are known as fawn lilies, a much more attractive name for these elegant plants and derived from the mottled leaves of some species resembling the coat of a young deer. Several are easy to grow and all are beautiful, but the most striking must be the rose-pink *E. revolutum*. This is a strongly growing plant with attractively mottled foliage and richly coloured flowers. Some variations have been selected and named, such as 'Rose Beauty', the deep-pink 'Knightshayes Pink' and the Johnsonii Group, which have distinctly mottled leaves and rich pink flowers.

More subdued is the pale lavender-pink *E. hendersonii*. This delightful plant has flowers with narrow petals and a dark purple eye at the centre. They are held above mottled leaves on a stem that can hold up to four blooms. All the other western species with mottled leaves have white or cream flowers. In *E. citrinum* they are white with a greenish tinge especially towards the centre and the graceful *E. oregonum* has white flowers with a yellow centre. The best known is *E. californicum*, from the Coast Ranges of northern California. The cultivar 'White Beauty' is a popular selection and increases well in the garden, sometimes creating large drifts.

Of those with plain green leaves, the sunny, yellow-flowered *E. tuolumnense* from California is the most significant. It has been used in creating many hybrids but the species itself is worth growing. It increases well by offsets and can stand being drier in summer than most erythroniums. Crossed with *E. californicum* 'White Beauty' it has produced the vigorous cultivars *E.* 'Pagoda' and *E.* 'Kondo', both yellow. *E.* 'Sundisc' and *E.* 'Citronella' are also likely derived from the same cross. 'White Beauty' has also been crossed with *E. oregonum* to produce the tall, white-flowered 'Minnehaha', and the soft-pink 'Rosalind' is probably a result of hybridising 'White Beauty' and *E. revolutum*. The parents of many hybrids are not recorded, especially as they often arise spontaneously in gardens.

These are all exquisite garden plants and I'd love to see them in their natural habitat. The only *Erythronium* I have seen growing wild is *E. caucasicum*. Travelling through Georgia, we stopped in a lay-by and walked into the woods. With the sound of lorries screaming by and a biting wind sweeping down from the Caucasus mountains, we came across small patches of this white-flowered species. Infuriatingly hard to photograph, the flowers didn't stop moving. They danced away, fluttering in the wind and lifting the spirits on an otherwise drab day. □

• Richard Wilford is a horticulturist based at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. His recommendations for erythroniums continue over the next five pages.

PLANT PROFILE

What Around 28 species of bulbous plants, often with attractive foliage and nodding flowers of spreading or reflexed petals. Colours range from white, cream and yellow to pink and purple. Known as dog's tooth violet, fawn lily and trout lily.

Origins A few species are from Europe and Asia but the majority come from North America, where there are two distinct groups in the east and west of the continent.

Season Flowers in spring.

Size 10-40cm tall.

Conditions In a woodland garden or shady border under shrubs, plant the bulbs in light but humus-rich soil that does not dry out completely in summer.

Hardiness Hardy throughout almost all of the UK. Most have an RHS hardiness rating of H5, and are suitable for gardens in USDA hardiness zones 3a to 9b.

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.

†Hardiness ratings given where available.

Greencombe Gardens

The three-and-a-half-acre garden where these images were taken holds one of the National Plant Collections of *Erythronium*. This sloping woodland garden in Somerset has north-facing, shady borders that are ideal for growing these bulbs. Made by the late plantswoman Joan Loraine, it is open to the public from April to July. greencombe.org

***E.* 'Winifred Loraine'**

Named after her mother by Joan Loraine, who gardened at Greencombe Gardens from 1966 to 2016, this cultivar is similar to *E. revolutum*, with equally attractive leaves but flowers of a softer pink. 25cm.



E. 'Sundisc'

A beautiful, large-flowered form, probably the result of hybridisation between *E. californicum* 'White Beauty' and *E. tuolumnense*. Similar to 'Pagoda' but with well-marked, bronzy mottled leaves. 35cm. AGM. RHS H4.



E. 'Minnehaha'

This cross between *E. californicum* 'White Beauty' and *E. oregonum* has white flowers with a pale-yellow centre and the narrow petals are often strongly reflexed. 40cm.



E. tuolumnense

The parent of many garden hybrids, which share its vigorous growth and yellow flowers. The species has glossy, plain green leaves and takes its name from Tuolumne County in California. 30cm.

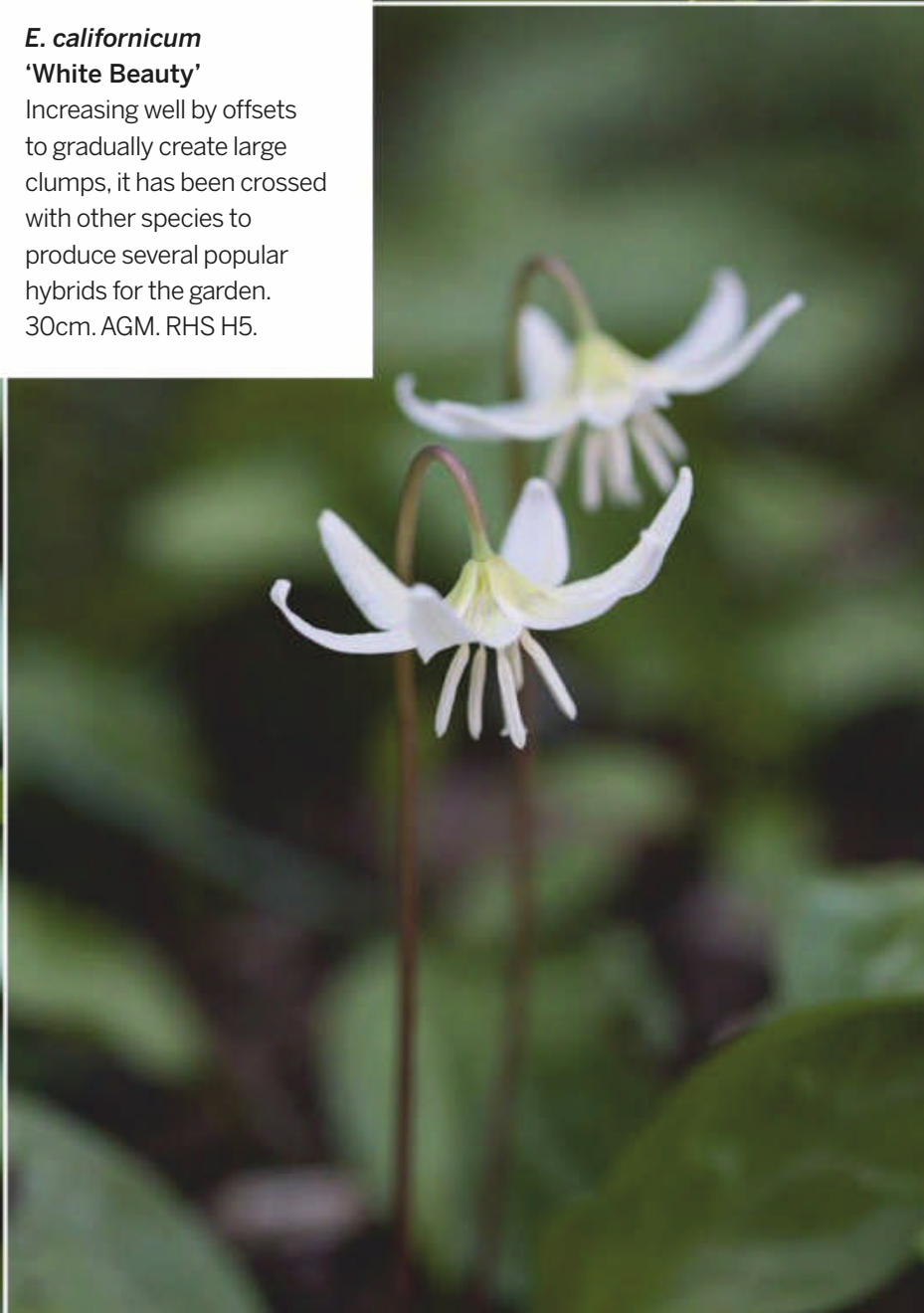


E. americanum

Called the trout lily because of the heavy mottling on its leaves, this short, stoloniferous species comes from eastern North America. The yellow flowers have petals backed with bronzy purple. 15cm.

E. californicum

'White Beauty'
Increasing well by offsets to gradually create large clumps, it has been crossed with other species to produce several popular hybrids for the garden. 30cm. AGM. RHS H5.





E. 'Rosalind'

Raised by plantsman Keith Wiley from seed of *E. revolutum* Johnsonii Group that had crossed with 'White Beauty'. Flowers are white in the centre but pink towards the tips of the petals. 25cm.



E. 'Janice'

A strong-growing, pink-flowered hybrid, very close to *E. revolutum*. The flowers are white at the centre with a ring of yellow and the leaves are attractively mottled with white veins. 30cm. AGM. RHS H5.



E. hendersonii

A lovely species from southern Oregon and northern California. The flowers have reflexed petals and are pale lavender-pink with a dark-purple centre and purple anthers. 30cm. AGM. RHS H5.



E. citrinum

A delicate-looking species from southern Oregon and northern California that has mottled leaves and a white flower with a greenish yellow centre. The petals spread wide when fully open. 25cm.



E. revolutum

'Knightshayes Pink'

This deep pink-flowered cultivar named after Knightshayes, the house and garden in Devon where this form originated. The leaves are heavily marked with dusky purple. 35cm.

E. dens-canis

The only erythronium that naturally occurs in northern Europe, and one of the easiest species to grow in UK gardens. The nodding mauve-pink flowers appear very early in the spring. 10-15cm. RHS H5.



ERYTHRONIUM DENS-CANIS / JASON INGRAM

Cultivation

Most erythroniums are straightforward to grow if planted in dappled shade and light but humus-rich soil. Some of the smaller species, such as *E. dens-canis*, which only grows to about 10cm, can be swamped by surrounding plants so be careful where you place the bulbs. It helps that *E. dens-canis* flowers early, only beaten by *E. caucasicum*, when there is little else above ground in the last days of winter. The stars of the genus that originate from western North America usually reach around 30cm tall and most are strong enough to make their own space in a border. They flower in mid spring and can form vigorous clumps full of blooms.

The one thing they don't like is to be in dry, dusty soil in summer. They benefit from some cool shade, even when dormant so a woodland garden or border of deciduous shrubs is ideal. Here they can make the most of the light while the trees are bare and take advantage of the shade in summer to prevent them drying out. If grown in pots, move them to a cool, shady spot once they have died down. The bulbs should be planted at the end of summer. Plant as soon as you get them as they don't like to be dried out too much. The bulbs are long and thin and should be planted vertically, with the most pointed end up. Dig a hole deep enough that you can cover the top of the bulb with around 10cm of soil, or use a deep pot.

Unless they start to produce fewer flowers, there is no need to divide established clumps, unless you want to spread them to other parts of a border, or you want to hurry along their rate of increase. If so, this is best done in early summer, when there is still some sign of life above ground to help you locate the bulbs, which can be surprisingly deep. Large clumps of strong-growing plants, such as *E. tuolumnense*, *E. 'Pagoda'* or *E. californicum* 'White Beauty', can be lifted and carefully pulled apart. Replant them straight away. They will benefit from a mulch of well-rotted compost in the autumn, which helps keep moisture in the soil and provides valuable nutrients.

Less vigorous spreaders, such as *E. hendersonii*, *E. citrinum* and *E. oregonum*, are best left to their own devices. They will slowly spread, often by seed, and find their own place in a border. You can also collect the seed and sow them yourself. Cut the seed pods off in early summer and keep them dry in a paper bag until early autumn. Sow in pots and only lightly cover the seeds with a thin layer of soil or fine grit. Place the pots in a sheltered spot outside until they germinate. Growing from seed is a slow process and it might take five years until they flower but it can be the only way to get some of the more unusual species.

Where to see and buy

• **Greencombe Gardens***

Greencombe, Minehead, Somerset TA24 8NU.
Tel 01643 862363, greencombe.org
Open daily, April – July, 2-6pm. Admission £7.

• **Kevoek Garden Plants**

Kevoek Road, Lasswade, Midlothian EH18 1HX.
Tel 0131 454 0660, kevoekgarden.co.uk

• **Macplants**

Berrybank Nursery, 5 Boggs Holdings, Pencaitland, East Lothian EH34 5BA.
Tel 01875 341179, macplants.co.uk

• **P de Jager & Sons**

Church Farm, Ulcombe, Maidstone, Kent ME17 1DN.
Tel 01622 840229, dejager.co.uk

• **RV Roger***

The Nurseries, Malton Road, Pickering, North Yorkshire YO18 7JW.
Tel 01751 472226, rvroger.co.uk

• **Twelve Nuns**

16 Carisbrook Grove, Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 2GF.
Tel 01778 590455, twelvenuns.co.uk

*National Collection holder.

A photograph of a garden scene. In the foreground, a green lawn path leads towards the background. On the left, there are several trees with dense, upright, reddish-brown branches. To the right of the path, there are patches of white and purple flowers. In the background, more trees and foliage are visible under a bright sky.

First love

After falling for cyclamens in a local garden, Jo Hynes has amassed a National Collection and filled her Devon garden with these and other bright early delights

WORDS AMBRA EDWARDS PHOTOGRAPHS RICHARD BLOOM



Flanking the path from the house to the orchard in Jo Hynes’ Devon garden stand two rows of willows, each sliced neatly into a flat plate at head height, from which the new orange growth flares upward, resembling a line of blazing torches lighting the way. What was the inspiration for this treatment? “I used to do a lot of basket weaving,” explains Jo, “and this was a very wet bit of garden, ideal for growing willows. The main planting is of *Salix alba* var. *vitellina* ‘Britzensis’, which keeps its fiery colour when you weave it.”

Higher Cherubeer is an eminently practical garden. Standing at an elevation of 150m at the head of a west-facing valley on the edge of Dartmoor, it is prey to ferocious winds. So the Hynes’ first task on arrival was to plant a protective beech hedge and shelter belts of native trees that would blend harmoniously with the surrounding fields. The garden has evolved with the family. Paths have formed along desire lines, marking out the quickest route to the orchard, chicken run, or veg patch, or a favourite spot to pause and look out at the view. Jo’s husband Tom has terraced the sloping land into two flat lawns, patiently collecting field stone and building it into dry-stone walls. Gardening in the rain has been transformed by the creation of a ‘gravel superhighway’. “We can now get right round the garden without going on the grass – and better still, get a barrow all the way,” enthuses Jo. Winter visitors like it too – they can admire her extensive collection of snowdrops without getting their feet wet. A broad grass path cuts a firm diagonal through the garden, anchoring the meandering paths and irregular planting spaces, crammed at this season with a plethora of early flowering plants.

Jo grows some 400 different snowdrops, but is especially fond of Greek species *Galanthus ikariae*. “It self-seeds round the garden so it always looks very natural,” says Jo – an effect harder to achieve with ►

IN BRIEF

Name Higher Cherubeer.

What Naturalistic woodland garden harbouring collections of cyclamen and snowdrops.

Where Devon.

Soil Stony acid clay.

Size One and a quarter acres.

Climate Windy and rainy.

Hardiness zone USDA 8.

A winding grass path at Higher Cherubeer is flanked by a colonnade of *Salix alba* var. *vitellina* ‘Britzensis’ ornamented with hellebores, snowdrops and other early bulbs.

▷ sterile hybrids, which must be lifted and divided every few years. As well as collecting, Jo has bred several new cultivars of her own, two of which, 'Jack Hynes' and 'Daisy Hynes', she named after her children.

Mature trees shelter many thousands of woodland perennials, most offering not only delicate blooms but also handsome foliage – masses of glossy-leaved hellebores, spotted and splashed pulmonarias, marbled *Arum italicum* and the striking giant golden saxifrage, *Chrysosplenium macrophyllum*, with waxy inflorescences set off by large, bergenia-like leaves. There are erythroniums just starting into flower, and various kinds of epimedium. But for sheer beauty and variety of foliage, there is nothing to match the swathes of cyclamen clustered around the roots of the trees – their dainty leaves silver and malachite, speckled and striped, in endless variation of pattern.

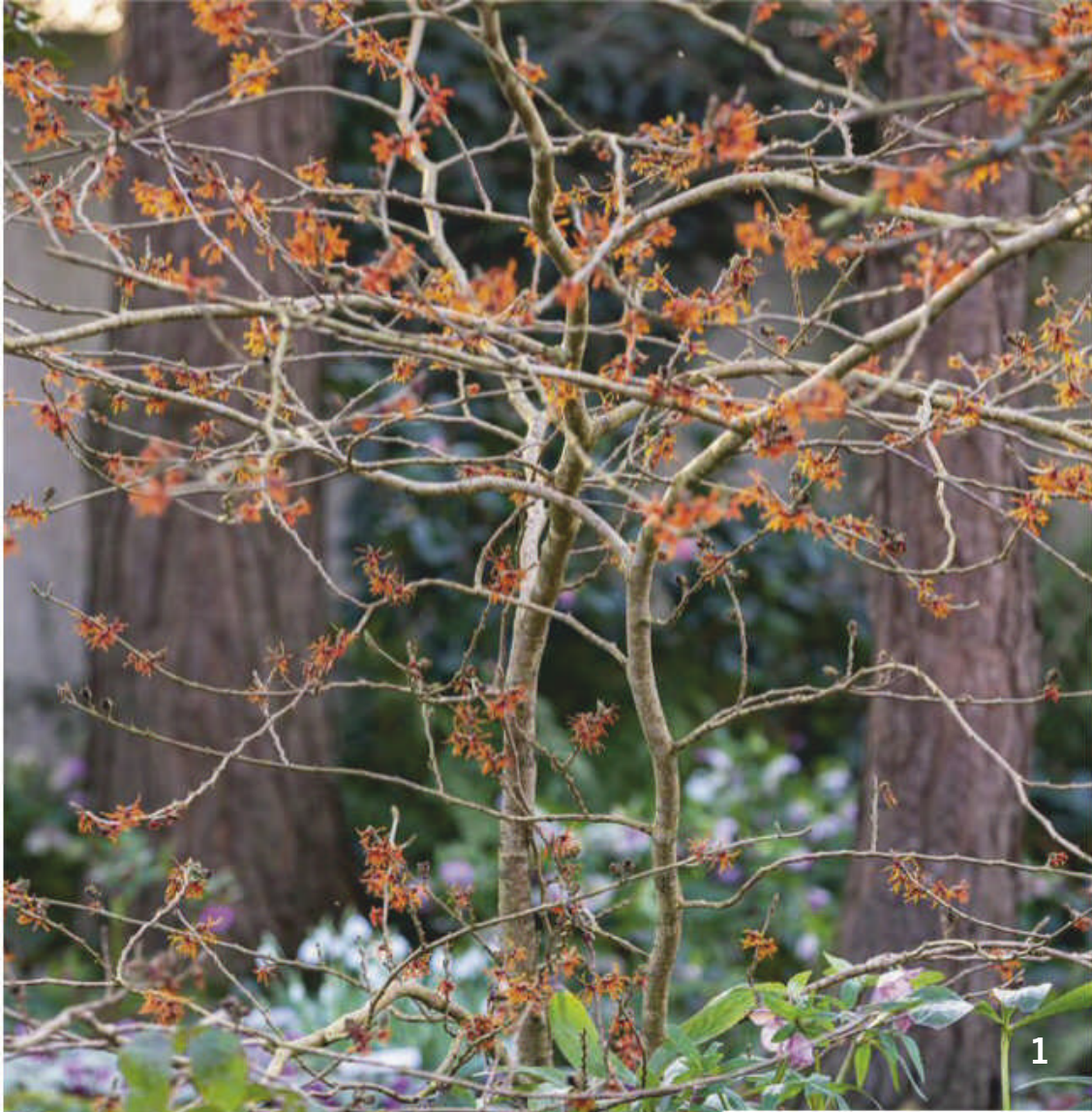
Jo's interest in cyclamen began in a garden in the south Devon village of Kellaton, where *Cyclamen hederifolium* had once been grown as a cut flower, and had run wild: here she collected seed and experimented with growing plants from scratch. Before long, she was travelling to see cyclamen growing in the wild: some 23 species are distributed around the Mediterranean and the Near East. "We've been to Turkey, to Jordan, all down the Adriatic coast, everywhere from the Crimea to the Golan Heights. We've seen them growing out of rocks and cliff faces, and in alpine meadows, as well as carpeting the forest floor like sheets of bluebells."

Jo now holds a National Collection, growing some 22 species in around 80 taxa. Among the trees, Jo grows familiar species such as winter-flowering *Cyclamen coum*, autumn-flowering *C. hederifolium* and the highly scented, evergreen *C. purpurascens* from Lake Garda in northern Italy, where it is used in the ▷

To continue turn to page 65



In a shady bed near the house snowdrops, cyclamen and other early flowerers join winter shrubs, including the fiery orange *Cornus sanguinea* 'Midwinter Fire' and the sweetly scented *Daphne bholua*. Its powerful fragrance is one of the great joys of the early spring garden.



1



2

8 KEY PLANTS

1 *Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Aurora' Spidery, copper-yellow flowers fill the air with scent during February and March, while hazel-like foliage offers excellent autumn colour. One of the best witch hazels. 2.5-4m. AGM*. RHS H5†.

2 *Galanthus* 'Wind Turbine' A new form of *G. plicatus* with distinctive widespread outer segments. It was found in a friend's garden and introduced by Jo. 20cm. RHS H5.

3 *Ribes laurifolium* A handsome flowering currant from China that does best on a sheltered site. Fragrant yellow-green flowers are followed by first red, then blackish, berries. 1m. RHS H5.

4 *Rhododendron* 'Seta' Narrow upright dwarf cultivar that needs a sheltered position to protect its large, early, tubular flowers, which grow deeper pink towards the tip. 1-2m. RHS H5.

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3



4



8 KEY PLANTS

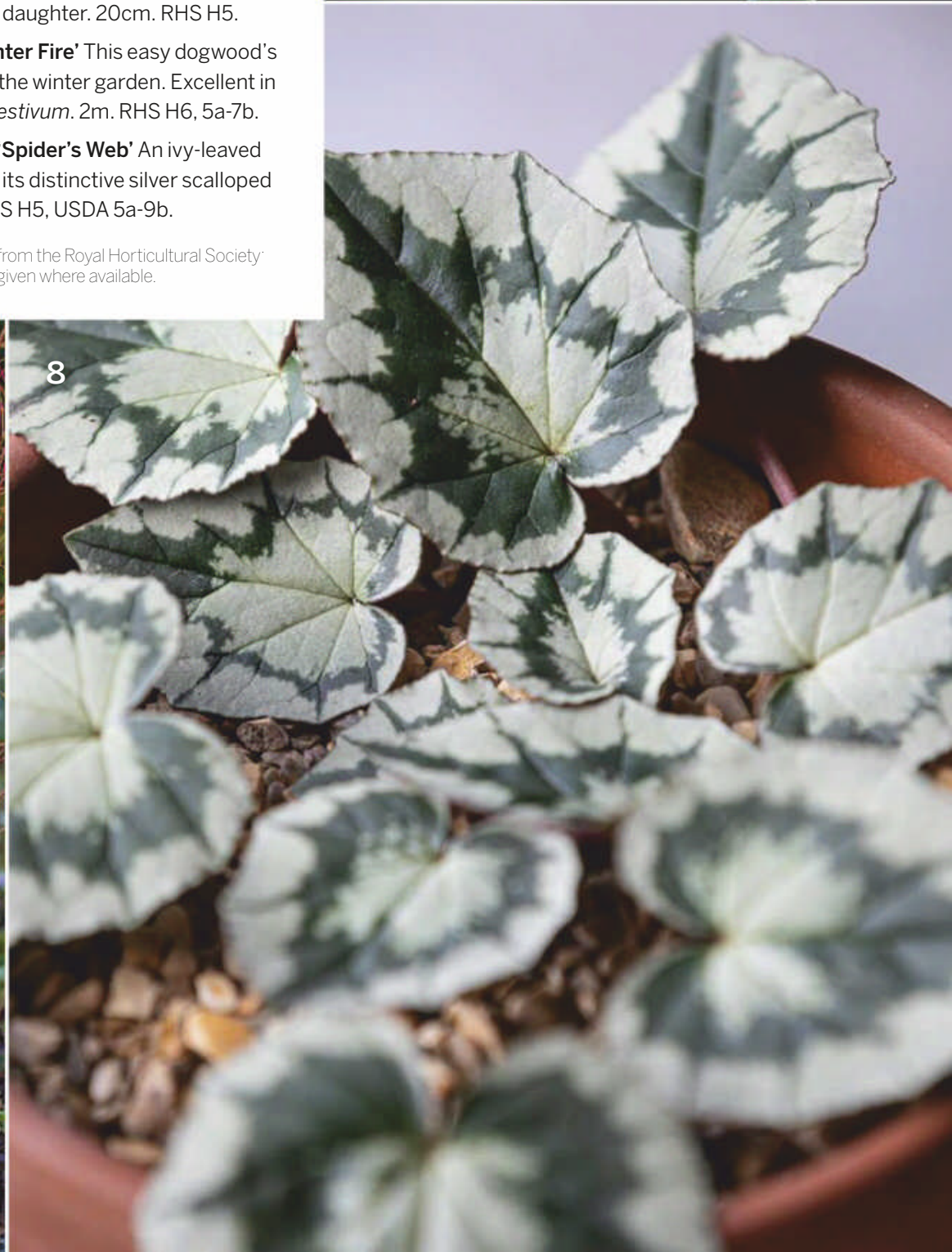
5 *Cyclamen persicum* var. *autumnale* An autumn-flowering greenhouse cyclamen with distinctively reflexed petals. Leaves appear only after it receives rain or dew. 30cm.

6 *Galanthus* 'Daisy Hynes' An early flowering *G. plicatus* cultivar bred by Jo, with solid-green inner perianth and a reflex habit inherited from its seed parent, *G.* 'Wind Turbine'. Named for Jo's daughter. 20cm. RHS H5.

7 *Cornus sanguinea* 'Midwinter Fire' This easy dogwood's orange stems are brilliant in the winter garden. Excellent in moist soil with *Leucojum aestivum*. 2m. RHS H6, 5a-7b.

8 *Cyclamen hederifolium* 'Spider's Web' An ivy-leaved cyclamen selected by Jo for its distinctive silver scalloped foliage. 12cm. RHS H5, USDA 5a-9b.

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.
†Hardiness ratings given where available.



A photograph of a woodland garden. A gravel path leads through a dense planting of snowdrops and purple flowers, likely hellebores. Tall, thin trees with bare branches stand in the background, and a glasshouse is visible in the distance. The scene is captured in a soft, natural light.

Jo grows some 400 different snowdrops, but is especially fond of the Greek species *Galanthus ikariae*. “It self-seeds round the garden so looks very natural,” she says

When the Hynes arrived there were just two newly planted poplar whips and a young birch they brought with them in the back of the car. Every other tree has been planted since, inspired by a national park they saw in Croatia, which “looked like the most perfect woodland garden”.

A photograph of a garden at dawn or dusk. In the foreground, there is a patch of green grass with several clumps of white snowdrops and some purple flowers. To the left, there is a large, dark, leafless shrub. In the middle ground, there are several tall, thin trees with bare branches. In the background, two greenhouses with glass roofs are visible. The sun is low in the sky, creating a warm, golden light that filters through the trees.

Surrounding the greenhouses, which shelter collections of rare snowdrops, cyclamen and hepaticas, are generous areas of planting designed to support bees. Nectar-rich trees are underplanted with early flowering shrubs and flowers that provide an invaluable food source at a lean time of year.

A photograph of a garden with a winding path, bare trees, and flowering plants. The path is made of grass and leads through a garden with various plants, including some with white flowers. The background shows bare trees and a clear sky.

▷ perfume industry. More special or tender species are displayed in various greenhouses, filling them with colour and scent every day of the year. Here flourish *C. graecum* from Crete, *C. elegans* from Iran, *C. cyprium* from Cyprus, and the fragrant *C. persicum* – the parent of our popular bedding cyclamen – from many parts of the Mediterranean. Along with them are selections made for their beauty of leaf or flower, including her own introduction, *C. hederifolium* ‘Spider’s Web’, with handsome scalloped silver leaves.

Jo has been a scientist, lecturer, beef farmer, shepherd and breeder of prize-winning sheep. She bakes her own bread, spins her own wool and collects honey from her own hives. “We have always gardened for 12 months of the year so that there will always be something for the bees,” she says. “It’s too mild here for bees to stay in cluster all winter long: they’ll fly, but if there’s nothing to find, they use up their stores too quickly. And climate change is making it even more of an issue.”

While the trees may still be bare, the garden offers them supplies of nectar-laden perennials and early flowering shrubs – flowering currants, small rhododendrons and fragrant witch hazels and daphnes.

“Whenever it’s dry enough to fly, the bees are out working.” And so of course is Jo. □

USEFUL INFORMATION

The garden opens most years for the NGS in February, and is opening for this year’s NGS Snowdrop Festival on 5 and 12 February, 2-5pm, pre booking essential. See ngs.org.uk/find-a-garden/snowdrop-gardens for details.

The garden has evolved with the family. Paths have formed along desire lines, marking out quickest routes or a favourite spot to pause

Facing page Margaret MacLennan hard at work. Scrupulous hygiene is paramount and Margaret wipes each bulb down with methylated spirits prior to propagation.

This image The delicate snowdrop *Galanthus x valentinei* 'Primrose Warburg' is named not for the marked primrose-yellow colour of its ovary but in memory of the formidable and well-known plantswoman of the same name.



Margaret's skill as a propagator has been central to the MacLennans' ascent among galanthophiles



White magic

In their Cumbrian garden Margaret and David MacLennan have built up a collection of more than 2,000 snowdrop cultivars, with their success due in part to the deftness of Margaret's nimble fingers when it comes to propagation

WORDS RORY DUSOIR PHOTOGRAPHS JASON INGRAM

Margaret and David MacLennan introduced themselves to the esoteric pursuit of collecting snowdrops just over 15 years ago. They now grow at least 2,000 distinct cultivars of *Galanthus* and theirs is the largest systematic and publicly accessible collection in the UK. As a National Collection, it was granted Scientific Status by Plant Heritage a few years ago, in recognition of the MacLennans' extraordinary rigour in maintaining, expanding and documenting the collection, but also of their generosity in sharing knowledge and plants among other enthusiasts and institutions. David has an impressively easy command of the niceties of form and lineage that distinguish each snowdrop in their collection and photographs them assiduously, while Margaret's skill as a propagator has been central to the MacLennans' rapid ascent among galanthophiles.

The first priority on acquiring a new snowdrop is for it to reach blooming size so that it may be observed and photographed in flower. In its first dormant season after flowering, Margaret will put the bulb under the knife. Having cleaned the bulbs carefully with methylated spirits, she 'chips' them by first cutting the top off, then making a number of axial incisions from the bottom to the top, to produce eight or more propagules (viable pieces of bulb), each with a portion of the root plate intact. Margaret normally stops once she has eight pieces of bulb. It would be feasible to divide these further to an



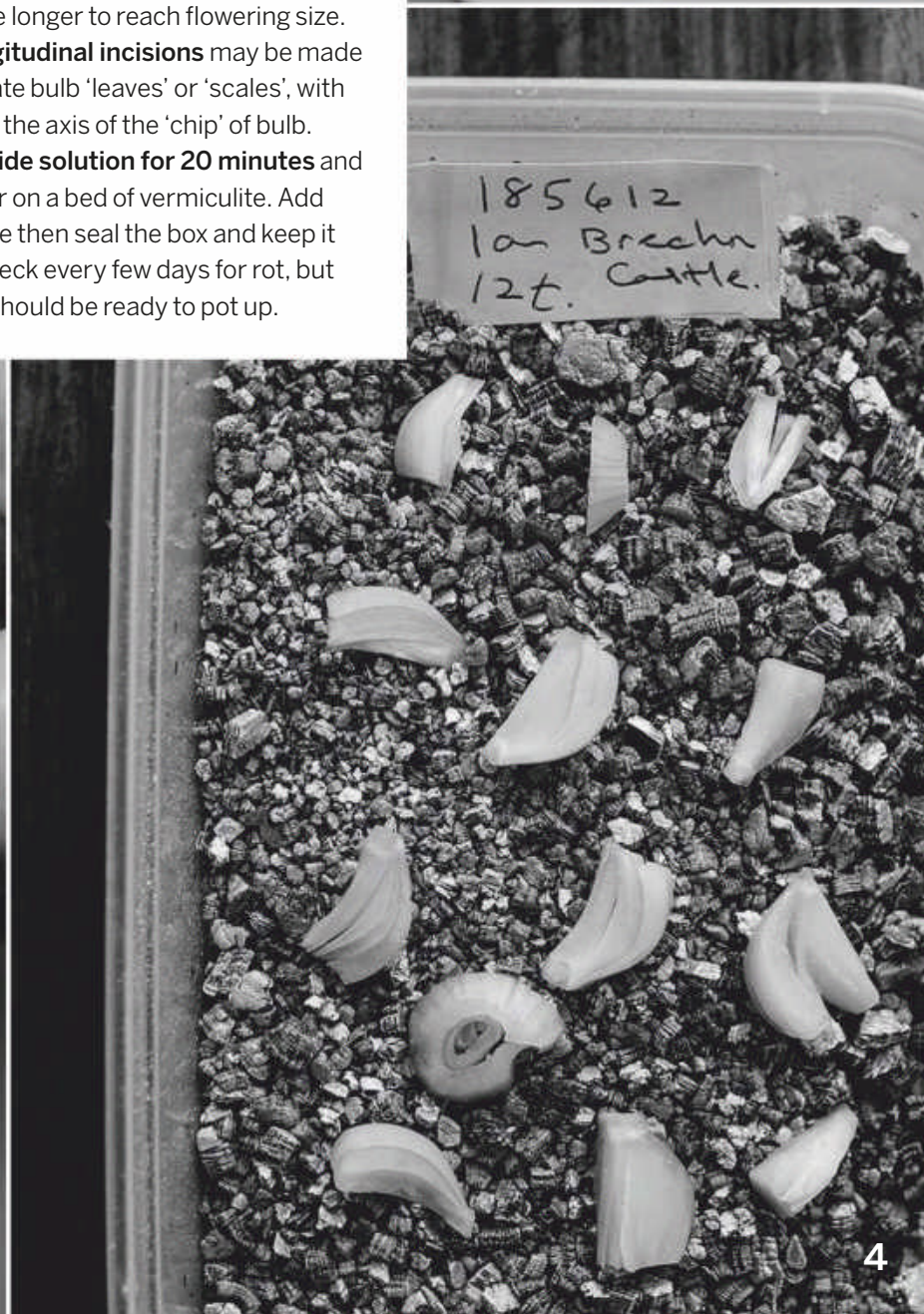
Propagating snowdrops

1 After removing the top quarter of the bulb (cutting parallel to the root-plate), make the first longitudinal cut to divide the bulb into two equal pieces.

2 Bulbs can be divided into four, eight, 16 or 32 equal pieces ('chips') of bulb, ensuring each has a portion of the root-plate attached. Margaret seldom divides a bulb into more than eight chips as smaller divisions take longer to reach flowering size.

3 For twinscaling, further longitudinal incisions may be made to divide the chips into separate bulb 'leaves' or 'scales', with the blade perpendicular to the axis of the 'chip' of bulb.

4 Soak propagules in a fungicide solution for 20 minutes and place in a sealable container on a bed of vermiculite. Add a covering layer of vermiculite then seal the box and keep it somewhere dark at 21°C. Check every few days for rot, but after 12-14 weeks they should be ready to pot up.





▷ almost indefinite extent, by making further axial ‘chipping’ incisions, or by ‘twinscaling’. This involves making further longitudinal divisions, but with the knife running perpendicular from the previous ‘chipping’ cuts to separate the bulb ‘leaves’ from one another, again ensuring that there is some root plate attached to each piece. However, as Margaret points out, the smaller the propagule, the longer it will take to flower again.

The ‘chips’ are then soaked in a fungicide solution for 20 minutes and placed in a sealed container with a layer of vermiculite above and below. The boxes are placed straight into a large propagator in darkness and held at 21°C for 12-14 weeks, during which time they will all be checked every few days – pieces that show any sign of infection will be immediately discarded before the rot can spread. After this they are ready for their first potting up, into 9cm square pots. These young bulbs are kept frost free for their first winter. Ultimately, flowering-sized bulbs ready to take their rightful place in the collection are housed in aquatic baskets plunged into sharp sand in cold frames – this allows the snowdrops’ annual root system to roam freely beyond the confines of the pot, while keeping all the cultivars safely segregated (bulbs tend to roam in the open ground). The ‘reservoir’ effect of plunging the pots, combined with the high rainfall in Carlisle, mean that the snowdrops never have to be irrigated.

The MacLennans used to grow their snowdrops in a John Innes mixture leavened with grit, leaf mould and perlite, but after a successful trial they are now making a transition to bulb compost manufactured by Dalefoot – an organic and peat-free compost produced sustainably in the Lake District that contains locally sourced sheep’s wool and bracken. As well as being fertile enough to sustain a pot of snowdrops without feeding for a couple of seasons, the compost is also light – a crucial consideration when maintaining a collection on such a considerable scale. The bases of the bulbs are placed on a layer of sharp sand within the compost and re-potted at a maximum interval of three years. All the propagation and re-potting must take place during the snowdrops’ dormancy, between May and September. □

USEFUL INFORMATION

David and Margaret do not hold open days, but when regulations permit they open their garden by appointment to groups only. Find details on the Plant Heritage website plantheritage.org.uk

Turn the page for 16 snowdrops from the MacLennans’ garden.



16 favourite snowdrops

1 *Galanthus nivalis* Sandersii Group 'Lowick' One of the rare Sandersii Group with yellow ovaries and internal markings. Derived from a naturalised population in Northumberland. 12cm.

2 *G. x valentinei* 'Angela Whinfield' From a class of *G. x valentinei* often known as 'inverse poculiform', having outer petals with strong green markings. 15cm.

3 *G. x valentinei* 'Hobbogoblin' The pun in the name honours Richard Hobbs, the conservator of the Greatorex Snowdrop Acre in Norfolk. A form of *G. x valentinei* with its outer petals reflexed to display green markings. 17cm.

4 *G. x valentinei* 'Wasp' Discovered by plantswoman Veronica Cross in a Herefordshire garden. It is instantly recognisable for its slender 'outers' and distinctive inner markings. 20cm.

5 *G.* 'King Thistle' The outer petals of this Croatian snowdrop are particularly long and streaked with green. c. 15cm.

6 *G. nivalis* 'Tetrahedron' A form of *G. nivalis* named for its angular outline when viewed from above. 15cm.

7 *G. elwesii* 'Fly Fishing' Exceptionally long pedicels lend this vigorous hybrid a particularly delicate grace. 22cm.

8 *G. plicatus* 'Golden Fleece' A single bulb of this snowdrop once famously sold on eBay for an eye-watering £1,390. A price possibly justified by the fact it boasts a dual rarity: inverse poculiform markings that are also yellow. 17cm.





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9 *G. x valentinei* 'Novers Green' A snowdrop David admires for its subtle green markings and poise, which he attributes to the long pedicel. Not yet in general circulation. c. 18cm.

10 *G.* 'Ulli's Gift' One of a newly emerging group known as 'colour-change', in which the basal and apical markings on the inner petals start green but turn yellow. 15cm.

11 *G. plicatus* 'Party Dress' Another 'inverse poculiform', *G. plicatus* cultivar. This was discovered by the nurseryman Richard Bashford in his garden. David commends it as much for its markings as for its neat and upstanding habit. 18cm.

12 *G. x valentinei* 'Dryad Gold Sceptre' One of a group of snowdrops seedlings raised from a crossing of yellow *G. nivalis* with *G. plicatus* 'Wendy's Gold', made by Anne Wright. Hybrid vigour makes these more robust than most yellows. 17cm.

13 *G. plicatus* 'Castle Green Dragon' A snowdrop with heavy green markings on the inner petals. Discovered by Ian Christie at Brechin Castle, family seat of the Dalhousies. 15cm.

14 *G. nivalis* 'Green Maid' One of the Scharlock snowdrops with spathes (the leaf-like structure above the flower) that are much longer than normal and split into two 'bunny ears'. It is an extreme form of the common double *nivalis* with enlarged split spathe, long outers and lots of green shading on the inners.

15 *G. x valentinei* 'Magic Lantern' Large, rounded flowers are suspended from gracefully long, pendulous pedicels. 19cm.

16 *G. elwesii* 'Carolyn Elwes' As yet the only yellow form of *G. elwesii* in cultivation, found at Colesbourne Park, home to the Elwes family's historic *Galanthus* collection. 13cm.



12



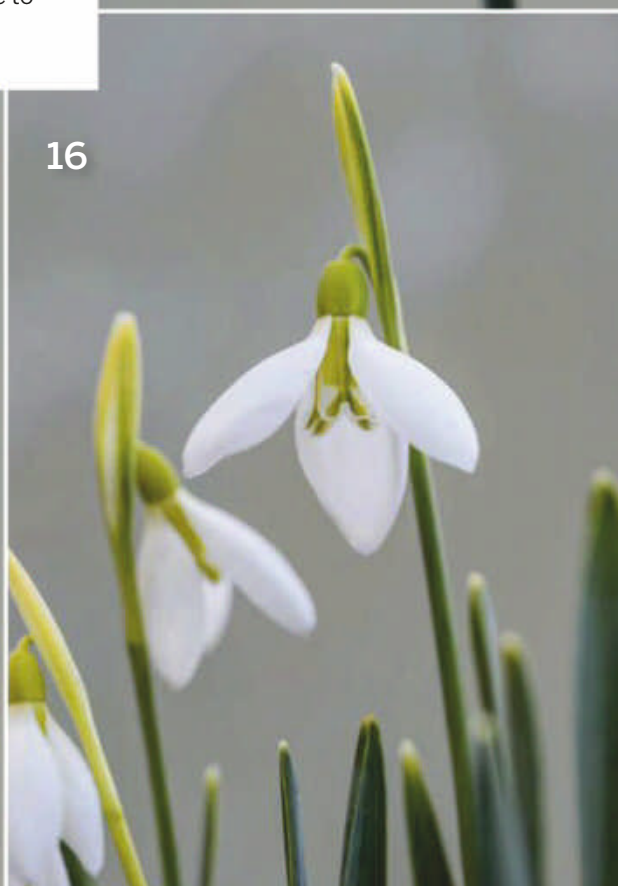
13



14



15



16

ELIZABETH MACGREGOR

The nurserywoman famed for her anemones, violas and clematis on being bitten by the hybridising bug and the joy of exhibiting. Just don't ask her about pansies

WORDS LIA LEENDERTZ PORTRAIT CHARLIE HOPKINSON

When Elizabeth MacGregor tells people that she breeds violas, their most common reaction is "Oh, pansies?" Although she doesn't like to talk ill of other people's breeding efforts, at this she admits that she struggles to contain herself. "In fact I loathe and detest pansies," she confides. "They are so often bred to produce large blobs of harsh colours, which is really the opposite of what I love." Elizabeth has been breeding plants for more than 30 years, and there are definite themes within her breeding, small flowers being among them. "I will always go for a mass of small flowers over a few big ones. They produce more of a show, and at the same time they are more delicate."

But she initially chose violas because of practicalities. Her interest in gardening was sparked in the early 1980s when she and her husband, Alasdair, moved into a cottage with a long and thin, quarter-acre garden in Warwickshire. "My knowledge and interest developed quickly as soon as I had a garden of my own," she says. This interest piqued, she found herself surrounded by amazing gardens, such as Kiftsgate and Hidcote, and John Treasure's garden in Tenbury, which boasted a huge clematis collection. She fed her new interest visiting these gardens and by joining the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens, which became the basis of her burgeoning interest in hybridisation. "The Warwickshire group was really astonishing, just the depth of knowledge. I found myself surrounded by people who were complete plant addicts, and listening to talks from plantspeople and leading nurserymen. There was so much to learn." Through research, trial and error she began experimenting with making her own plant crosses and was delighted at producing a couple of "seriously good clematis". She caught the bug, but with little space she tried her skills on diminutive *Viola cornuta*, producing plants with masses of small, delicate flowers and perennial habits. She started selling her plants to local garden centres and via mail order.

Very soon though Elizabeth found that the garden wasn't giving her enough scope for her ambitions. "I desperately wanted a nursery with a garden where customers could see the plants growing, so we started the hunt for a bigger garden." Eventually they hit upon Ellenbank, in Galloway, a three-and-a-half-acre garden containing a beautiful, half-acre, curved walled garden. It is here that Elizabeth has been able to experiment with all of her favourites – clematis,

thalictrums, geums, geraniums and more – and to develop her own hybridising style. "I love the species, and I love plants that look natural and close to how they look in the wild, but I try to lengthen their flowering period or encourage them to be more floriferous." She does this by crossing a plant that flowers early in the year with one that flowers later, or by looking for sterile hybrids, which – unable to set seed – will keep on flowering far longer than the species would.

With a growing number of her own plants on her list, she started exhibiting at garden shows throughout Scotland, and later at RHS Flower Show Tatton Park. "It was pre internet, and a wonderful way for a rural business to reach a great many customers that we wouldn't have been able to reach otherwise." Elizabeth also revelled in the contact with nursery owners who she found wonderful sources of plants and knowledge, and in the feedback from RHS judges in

particular. "Our first show we were awarded a bronze and then had a run of silver gilts, but one particular judge took me through the stand in great detail pointing out exactly what they are looking for and how we could improve, and from then on we started getting golds." From 2003 to 2011 she was awarded nine consecutive golds, plus the award for Most Creative Display in the RHS Floral Marquee in 2004 and Best Exhibit in 2007. In 2011 her *Anemone* Wild Swan (= 'Macane001') was awarded Plant of the Year at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

In 2011 she and Alasdair made the decision to stop exhibiting. "The shows are wonderful but stressful and very physical, and we were away for so much of the summer. It was time to reassess what was most important, and spend more time on the garden." Their son John moved to the garden with his young family and now the three of them run the nursery together.

Happily, she is now able to spend more time creating her elegant and long-flowering plants, a job to which she has come to realise she is particularly temperamentally suited, and which she finds particularly satisfying. "There is a sheer dogged perseverance that you need and that I seem to have. If I get a good visual idea I will attempt it again and again, cross after cross, until I get it right. I love creating something that didn't exist before." □

USEFUL INFORMATION

Elizabeth MacGregor Nursery, Ellenbank, Tongland Road, Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway DG6 4UU.
Tel 01557 330620, elizabethmacgregornursery.co.uk

I LOVE PLANTS
THAT LOOK
NATURAL AND
CLOSE TO HOW
THEY LOOK IN
THE WILD



Force of nature

At once works of art and functional objects, Cécile Daladier's portable gardens rely on the forces of nature to create them, and on natural materials – flowers – to complete them

WORDS NATASHA GOODFELLOW PHOTOGRAPHS LINSEY RENDELL



Facing page A selection of Cécile's artworks completed with flowers. She wants her vases to honour the plants she puts in them, allowing them to express their natural form and to be appreciated for their unique beauty.

This image Cécile adds a selection of flowers to vases. Different flowers inspire different vase forms. Some, incorporate ceramic flower frogs for the arrangement of delicate stems, while others are designed for sturdier species.





This page, clockwise from above

A detail of *Buildings*, which reflects Cécile's love of the natural world.

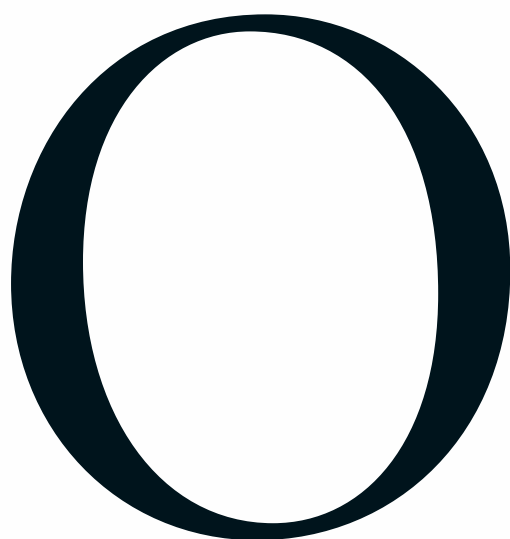
Cécile throwing a pot on the wheel.

Trio is a piece designed for three different flowers, each with its own vase.

Facing page The dark striations on this homage to a tulipière come from the raku firing process in which traces of carbon from dried herbs and foliage are left in any tiny cracks or unglazed areas.



CÉCILE DALADIER



On the slopes of a small mountain in the Drôme department of France live ceramicist Cécile Daladier and her husband Nicolas Soulier in their centuries-old house. Undeniably beautiful though the area is, it is not a grand or dramatic landscape: there is no sea glittering on the horizon; no snowy peaks towering above. Instead there is just the garden, such as it is, an unbounded mass of grasses, native shrubs and wildflowers – lavender, violets, wild peonies – with, near the house, pockets of cultivated flowers Cécile wouldn't be without. "I don't find myself drawn to the extraordinary, the extravagant or the exceptional," says Cécile. "What interests me more is what's fragile, what's unfinished or changing. I think we all need to pay more attention to these things."

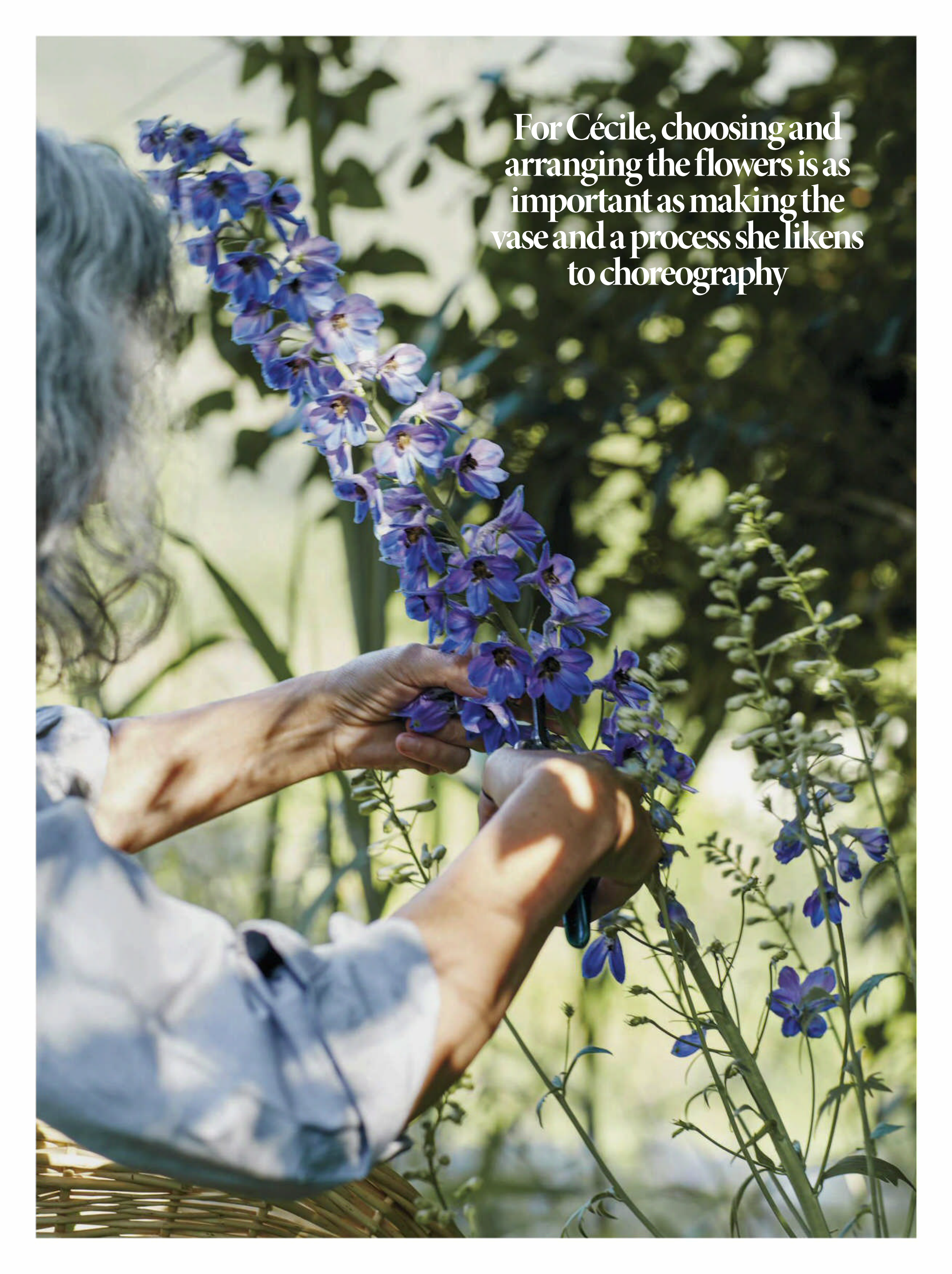
So it is with Cécile's ceramics, which seek to bring us into closer contact with the ephemerality of nature, to make us look rather than merely to see and, in so doing, help us to notice the extraordinary in the ordinary. "Little things are often very powerful," she says.

Having previously made sculptures for the garden, all of which explored the interrelationships between light, water and plants, making vases to bring plants into the house was a logical next step. But whereas most artists start with the vase and then look for flowers to fill it, for Cécile it is the flower that dictates the form of the vase.

"The stem of a hellebore is thick and rigid, whereas that of a cosmos is fine, it dances," she says. "But the stamens of a hellebore are beautiful and can look very good if they fall into water, so I think to myself, how can I create a vase that allows for that? Or, since hellebores flower in winter when the days are short, how can I incorporate a place for a ▹

Whereas most artists start
with the vase and then look
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For Cécile, choosing and
arranging the flowers is as
important as making the
vase and a process she likens
to choreography



Facing page

Cécile takes her time choosing and cutting flowers for her arrangements and regards this as a vital part of the finished piece.

This page, clockwise from top left

Cécile's garden is a mix of wildflowers and cultivated plants, including old roses, peonies and chocolate cosmos, which she loves both for its scent and colour.

Water plays an important role in Cécile's work, acting as a mirror and capturing the play of light and air.

One of Cécile's work in progress in her studio.



CÉCILE DALADIER



▷ candle? Each flower gives me lots of ideas.” Water too is a vital consideration, not only for the life of the flowers, but for its animative properties. “People travel to be close to water, to see the play of light; and yet it’s very rare to see and really appreciate water in a house,” she says. “My vases allow you to bring those same effects into your room.”

While her finished pieces have a quiet poise; making them is a far more visceral experience. Cécile uses a form of raku firing, in which the biscuit-fired, glazed vases are heated rapidly in her wood-fired kiln. Wearing fireproof gloves and a helmet donated by the local fire brigade, she watches through a little hole in the kiln, checking every ten minutes or so until she judges them ready. When that moment comes, she opens the door, removes the white-hot forms and plunges them into an iron container filled with dried herbs and leaves from her garden. As these burn (releasing flames and clouds of smoke) oxygen is drawn out, intensifying the colours and cracking the glaze, and carbon is deposited in any resulting fissures or unglazed areas – meaning that no two pieces are ever the same. “Nature decides the outcome,” smiles Cécile. “And it’s always a surprise. Every firing is an adventure.”

For Cécile, choosing and arranging the flowers is as important as making the vase and a process she likens to choreography, theatre or painting; something that should stir something deep inside us. “When you bring a flower indoors you’re cultivating that connection to nature that we all need,” she says. “You can look at it all day. You see how the bud opens, you notice its scent, and you see how it fades, wilts and eventually dies. It’s like watching a life in miniature. I can’t imagine a world without flowers, they bring so much good.” □

USEFUL INFORMATION

Find out more about Cécile’s work at ceciledaladier.com Cécile’s solo show *Solitary Flowers, ‘Einsame Blumen’* runs at the Flow Gallery in London from 4 February to 24 April. See flowgallery.co.uk for more details.

A photograph of a garden with a pond. The pond is in the foreground, reflecting the surrounding trees and foliage. The garden is filled with various plants, including ferns, shrubs, and trees. A modern house with large windows is visible in the background on the right side. The lighting is soft, suggesting late afternoon or early morning.

IN BRIEF

What Surprise 'oasis' garden, designed by Ron Lutsko.

Where California, USA.

Size Half an acre.

Soil Heavy clay.

Climate Unpredictable winters.

Hardiness zone USDA 9b.

The heart of the garden is an 'oasis' formed by an enlarged pool with associated viewing deck. It is shaded by birch trees and planted with maples, ferns and native sedges (in the water), as well as shrubs including *Loropetalum chinensis* (lower left) and specimens from the clients' existing tree collection, such as the dwarf *Cedrus deodara* 'Nana' (lower right).



Still waters run deep

A watery oasis garden intentionally out of kilter with the surrounding Californian climate and landscape bears all the hallmarks of its individualistic designer, Ron Lutsko

WORDS TIM RICHARDSON PHOTOGRAPHS RICHARD BLOOM

Most current designers will claim an ecological component to their work, but Ron Lutsko can say with certitude that this has been a key aspect of his practice since he set up his San Francisco-based company in 1981, when such interests were viewed almost as cranky. What makes Ron's work even more interesting is that he is steeped in the traditions of Californian garden modernism, as defined by early 20th-century figures such as Thomas Church and Garrett Eckbo. The result is that Ron's design mingles a deep knowledge of native flora with an elegant modernity.

In recent years Ron has been pushing at the boundaries of what might be considered 'a garden' – at projects such as the Portola Residence, where a plot without boundaries segues with the surrounding grassland. But his abiding interest in the possibilities of plants means he is also eager to take up new horticultural challenges, even if the results are somewhat out of kilter with the rest of his portfolio. This is certainly the case at a half-acre garden he has designed at a private residence in the affluent suburb of Atherton, 40 miles south of San Francisco. Here, he was asked to create a 'temperate oasis' pool garden around a remodelled 1960s glass-walled house.

"I want my work to grow out of the place, but this is different," Ron says. "The front of the property feels airy, open and Mediterranean, but then you come through the house and you are in this temperate-climate oasis that does not even feel like California. There's a moment of compression at the front door, then you go from dry gravel to wet pond in just a few paces. It's as if in one building you travel from the South of France to Switzerland."

The concept stemmed in part from the clients' desire to move their collection of Japanese maples and conifers from their previous garden to the new house. The existing building was remodelled by architectural firm Turnbull Griffin Haesloop, whose founder, the late William Turnbull, is celebrated for his rustic-modernist houses at Sea Ranch, Sonoma, and was a mentor to Ron as a young designer.

Working closely with the architects, Ron hit upon a tripartite structure for the garden, which is a 'flag lot', in local real-estate jargon. This means that the long, straight entrance drive cuts through other properties, so that the garden sits in a secluded situation in woodland 'behind' the neighbouring houses. The three long rectangular sections are a dry-garden entrance court with a grove of white-blossomed chimonanthus trees, then the 'oasis' garden immediately behind the house, followed by another dry zone at the far end of the plot, slightly uphill.

"It was an old established garden, but it had been pretty much abandoned," Ron explains. "We expanded an existing small pond and brought water right up to the house and deck." The pool was accented with native carex (sedge) and irises (both Japanese – *I. ensata* – and those from the 'Louisiana' species group). Ron acknowledges that elements such as the maples, rocks, viewing deck and horizontal orientation give the design something of a Japanese feel, but his intention was not to create a themed garden. "There are no specific Japanese motifs," he says, "but I do love the way the Japanese link their buildings with their landscapes. The area by the pool is very much a self-centred, introspective space. We contoured the hill behind so it forms a bowl and you find yourself in this quiet zone." As for the maples, says Ron, "they're like little characters emerging from the woods".

The planting for the 'oasis' area incorporated a verdant understorey of hellebores, cyclamen, anemones and ferns (mainly woodwardias and maidenheads), with a shrub layer of dwarf maples, loropetalums, daphnes and smaller species rhododendrons. The upper level comprises birch, sugar maple and cornus (mainly *C. kousa*), with olives at the fringes, where the garden meets the surrounding woodland of eucalyptus and live oak. The two smaller garden areas, which sandwich the house and pool garden, are more typically Californian, and less distinctive as a result.

What Ron clearly relished most was creating the anomalous water garden at the heart of the property. "It is a very different garden for us," he acknowledges. "But in a certain way I love these plants. I just embrace the whole thing and step back. I wouldn't have done it any differently." □

USEFUL INFORMATION

Find out more about Ron's work at lutskoassociates.com

Turn the page to see more of the garden and details of 12 key plants

Steps next to the house link the oasis garden with the drier zone above. The lush, green underplanting beneath the birch and cornus (at right) is chiefly *Helleborus* and *Loropetalum*.



Coming through the house, you go from dry gravel to wet pond in just a few paces. It's like travelling from the South of France to Switzerland



Above The dry 'Californian' zone, with its bocce court at the top of the garden, has lavenders, dieramas, phlomis and manzanitas (*Arcotstaphylos*) growing beneath olives and *Quercus agrifolia*. This last species, unfamiliar in Europe and difficult to grow, is a particular favourite of the designer.



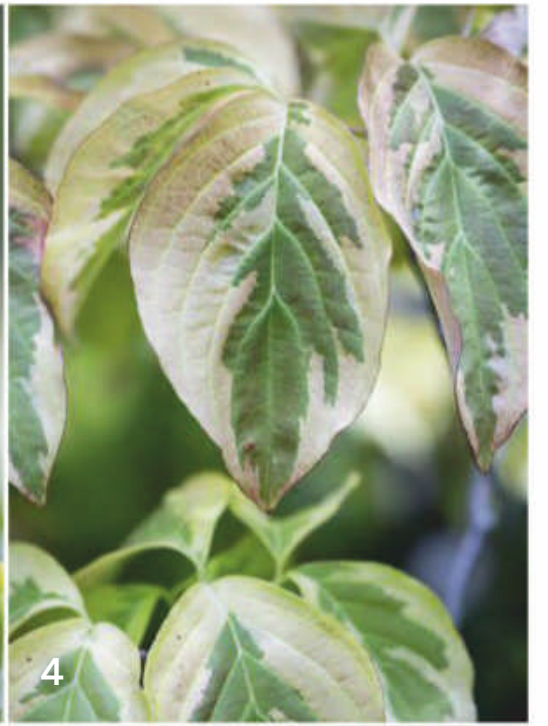
Below The guest suite gives on to the lap pool, fringed with fragrant lavender and apparently surrounded by virgin forest, although this is in fact a heavily populated suburban area. The straight, elegant lines of the pool mirror the three long, rectangular sections of the garden.



Above A seating area set behind a small home office. The original garden contained some large Himalayan birch trees – an anomaly in California. In the background is a specimen of Californian redwood *Sequoia sempervirens* that adds character and a feeling of age to the garden.



Below The bedroom area has its own viewing deck over the secluded 'oasis', where the sedges and distinctively coloured maples add a sense of character. A few choice boulders have been placed in and around the pool, not as focal points, but for balance and as spatial pointers.



12 KEY PLANTS

1 *Acer palmatum* One of several Japanese maples that the clients brought with them from their existing collection, and which Ron has used to create focal points around the pool. 7m. RHS H6, USDA 5a-8b[†].

2 *Salvia leucantha* Mexican bush sage is used in the dry upper garden, favoured for its drought tolerance and long flowering season (into late autumn). The small white flowers have showy purple calyces. 1.2m. AGM*. RHS H2, USDA 8a-10b.

3 *Philadelphus* 'Belle Étoile' For Ron, this “remains the best philadelphus”, with its pink flower eye, strong fragrance and generous leafiness. 1.8m. AGM. RHS H6, USDA 5a-8b.

4 *Cornus kousa* 'Akatsuki' Though not generally a fan of variegated plants, Ron admits that this specimen from the clients' collection adds character to the garden. It has showy bracts that start out white then turn pink with a white centre. 2.4m.

5 *Adiantum capillus-veneris* Deciduous clumping fern with a drooping habit. This marginal plant adds a delicacy at the edge of water. 45cm. USDA 5a-8b.

6 *Lavandula x intermedia* 'Grosso' This highly aromatic lavender with deep bluish-purple flowers is used generously in the dry upper garden. 90cm. RHS H5, USDA 5a-8b.

7 *Betula utilis* var. *jacquemontii* One of several birch species used in the garden in a deliberately anomalous manner (for California). The bark colour varies, but is usually the whitest found on any birch. 12m. USDA 5a-6b.

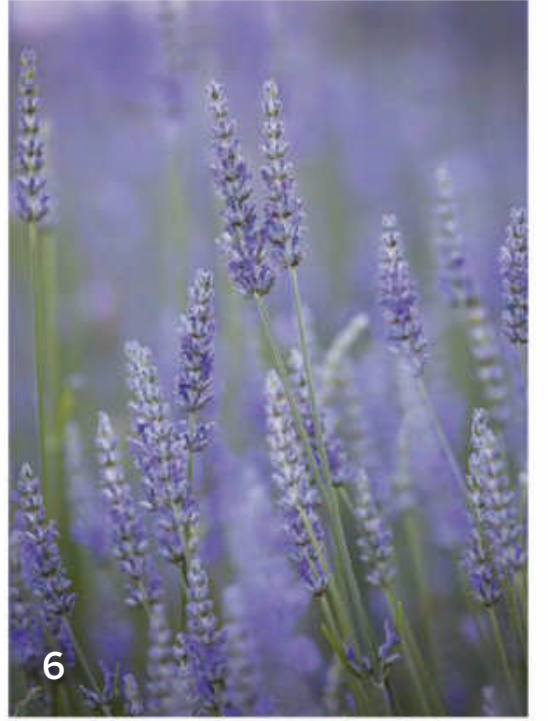
8 *Cornus kousa* A bushy, unvariegated cornus used for its fresh, green-and-white appeal. The flowers are followed by deep-pink fruit clusters. 7m. RHS H6, USDA 5a-8b.

9 *Darmera peltata* Its glossy, umbrella-shaped leaves, around 50cm in width, turn red in autumn. Dies back below ground level in autumn, before new growth in spring, preceded by pale-pink flowers on tall, naked stems. 1.5m. AGM. RHS H6, USDA 5a-7b.

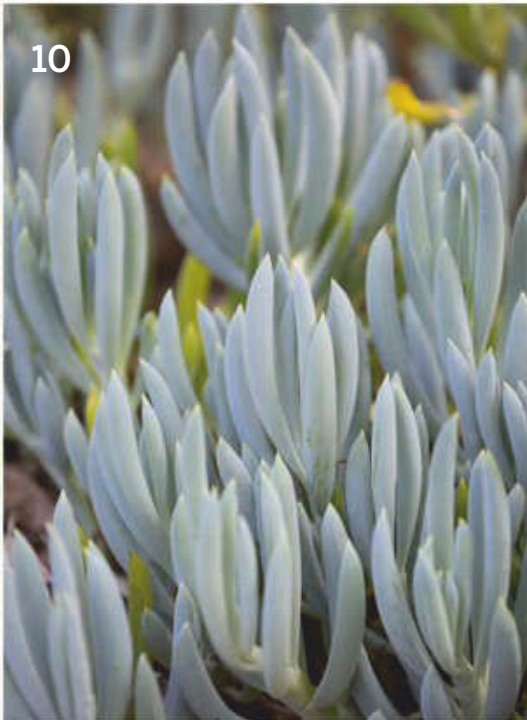
10 *Curio talinoides* var. *mandraliscae* A small, succulent shrub is used in the front courtyard, its narrow, blue-green leaves turning myriad shades in the sunlight. 60cm.

11 *Woodwardia fimbriata* Native to California, this upright fern, with dark-green, lance-shaped fronds, is used extensively by the water in this garden. 1.5m. AGM. RHS H3.

12 *Helleborus argutifolius* This hellebore can deal with both drought and wet shady conditions, so is an element of continuity between the oasis and the drier zones. Bears large, open clusters of nodding, pale-green flowers. 1m. AGM. RHS H5, USDA 6a-8b.



*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. †Hardiness ratings given where available.





A sculptural metal ring that has been sourced by the clients, creates a moon-gate effect at the border of the property, where a wooden fence emphasises the rustic atmosphere. Ron had in fact planted a hedge along here – but it did not flourish. The result, he says, “is not severely consequential”.

The intention was not to create a themed garden in any way, but the design has something of a Japanese feel, especially in the way the buildings are linked to the landscape

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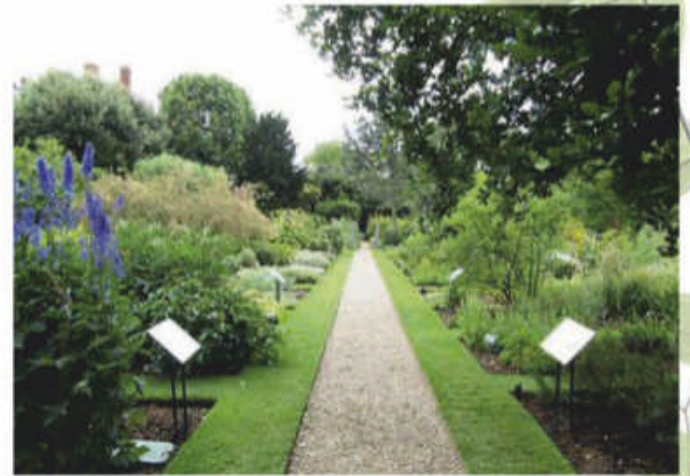
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Garden of Medicinal Plants – Chelsea Physic Garden

Photo: R Alexander

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Design

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SHARED BEAUTY

Shared courtyard gardens, designed by Declan Buckley Studio, are a central feature of a development of eight units that has recently won planning permission from Waltham Forest Council in east London. The new homes, designed by Trevor Horne Architects, will be built on an L-shaped site that is currently occupied by dilapidated lock-up garages. Walls will offer surfaces for the scented climber *Trachelospermum jasminoides* and geometric beds will separate the space into a series of planted areas. Block plantings of *Calamagrostis x acutiflora* 'Waldenbuch' will create soft screens down the courtyard, while a pair of *Betula pendula* 'Laciniata' will provide dappled shade. buckleydesignassociates.com



① NEW CITY ROOF TERRACES

A roof garden designed by Tom Stuart-Smith Studio is set to transform a former office building in the City of London. Planning permission has been granted to convert the old BT Centre at 81 Newgate Street into a mixed-use development, bringing together offices, retail, culture and leisure, that will feature extensive roof terraces, a green façade and street level planting. The roof garden, which will be one of the most extensive in central London with almost half of it open to the public, has been designed on a gradient with more formal planting close to the restaurant and offices leading to an open meadow-like scheme that will allow stunning views of St Paul's Cathedral. Planting, selected to be adapted to climate change, will feature a range of Mediterranean species with low water requirements, including olive and pistacia. Clipped yew forms and trees will soften the building at street level.

tomstuartsmith.co.uk





2



3



4



5

② ASLA AWARD

The six-year restoration of the Arts and Crafts estate and gardens at Marsh Court in Hampshire has been recognised in the 2020 American Society of Landscape Architects Awards. US-based architecture practice Reed + Hilderbrand won the Award of Excellence in the Residential Design Category for a scheme that both preserves and renews the original Lutyens-Jekyll design. Hedged garden rooms were reinstated and a native chalk meadow was allowed to re-emerge. A new limestone path now leads through oak and hawthorn groves to the wider estate.

reedhilderbrand.com

③ DESERT GARDEN

A hydroponic scheme, that uses the foam from discarded mattresses as its growing medium, has been devised by researchers at the University of Sheffield to help refugees living at the UNHCR Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan. The Desert Garden project has been training Syrian refugees to grow edible plants, enabling them to have fresh food for the first time in years. To date, more than 650 refugees have been trained, 100,000 plants have been grown, and more than 100 mattresses have been saved from landfill. The scheme requires a further £25,000 to make it fully sustainable. sheffield.ac.uk

④ UPCYCLED PLASTIC

A new range of stylish furniture and homeware from Second Nature offers you the flexibility of plastic without the guilt of adding to the planet's plastic mountains. Second Nature, a collaboration between Rotterdam-based design studio the New Raw and Greek manufacturer BlueCycle, creates products made entirely of reused plastic waste – generated mainly from the fishing and shipping industries – that are crafted using 3D-printing techniques. The sleek vase shown with a textured finish comes in a range of colours, sizes and shapes, and is suitable for both indoor and outdoor use.

thenewraw.org; bluecycle.com

⑤ NEW GARDEN AT HOLYROOD PALACE

A new public garden at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh has opened on the site of the old physic garden. Three distinct areas represent different phases in the Palace's history. A flowering meadow evokes the 15th-century monastic gardens; an area of flowering bulbs, planted in a geometric pattern, reflect the 17th-century gardens; while a grid of woven raised beds (above) that contains medicinal and culinary plants used in the 17th century, recalls the original physic garden, established by doctors Sir Robert Sibbald and Sir Andrew Balfour.

rct.uk

⑥ NEW PARK AT BROADGATE

Work has begun on the new, one-and-a-half-acre Exchange Park at Broadgate in the City of London, which will quadruple the area's green space. The Park, designed by DSDHA for developers British Land, will feature a stream, a series of beds filled with mixed planting, shade-giving mature trees and an area of lawn. Planting will frame new retail and events spaces with amphitheatre seating. dsdha.co.uk



7 TREE ROOM

Tree Room, a circular installation designed by Stefano Boeri, is a new addition to the Arte Sella open-air art museum in northern Italy. The structure, made from *Larix decidua* on a base of Corten steel is one of several artworks in the picturesque Val di Sella in Borgo Valsugana that find their inspiration in nature. The 12m-diameter circle encloses three existing trees, which are symbolic of the storm that destroyed many forest trees here in October 2018. Vertical sections of larch have been treated and blackened, using iron oxide and apple vinegar, an ancient technique that blackens and preserves the wood.

artesella.it/en

DESIGN TRENDS

2021

Like many of us, garden designers are having to respond to the fast-paced world we are living in, while also considering the environment and our wellbeing.

And key to that is a move to a more sustainable, thought-through and cohesive approach to our relationship with our gardens and green spaces.

Here, following a year of extra challenges for us all, nine notable designers from the UK and beyond explain a little about how they are approaching the world of garden design in 2021 and its responsibilities to the planet and our lives.

Ann-Marie Powell

Garden designer

I think an appreciation and desire to have a strong relationship with the natural world is becoming more and more prevalent. Naturalistic schemes filled with pollinators, in rural settings, are more popular than ever before, alongside minimalist, contemporary architecture as juxtaposition. People want to share their spaces with garden wildlife. Almost all of our gardens now contain water in some way to provide habitat for wildlife.

We are enthusiastically trying to be more site-sustainable – reusing or re-purposing materials – and clients are behind us every step of the way, limiting the environmental impacts of contributing to landfill.

Plants, people and places celebrating the wild and energetic colour of nature have long been drivers at our studio, and I have revelled in including as much of their ethos as possible. Social media has been a key influence for me this year, following a host of other folk for whom environment, autonomy and conservation are key, or who are growing it for themselves and sharing their wins and losses. It has prompted me to return to the tribe of the gardener again – I can't tell you how good it has felt to get my hands dirty again, and now I cannot pass a day without spending time in my own garden, no matter the weather. As a result, I believe I am a much better garden designer for it.

Key projects for our practice this year include completing two and a half acres at RHS Garden Wisley for the World Food Garden and Wildlife Garden. After nearly four years in the planning I cannot wait to share their paths with visitors.
ann-marielowell.com
Instagram ann_mariepowell

Cleve West

Landscape designer

Perhaps the silver lining to 2020's *annus horribilis* is that the negative aspects of the Anthropocene have finally been brought into sharp focus. Climate change, species extinction, biodiversity loss and now zoonotic disease can't be ignored and some of the solutions in terms of mitigating these problems (such as rewilding and other plant-based solutions) may well influence the way we make and enjoy our gardens.

A more sensitive approach to our interventions and the resources we use is inevitable. This means recalibrating our aesthetic barometers and acknowledging the role other lifeforms play in keeping things ticking over. Methods used in forest gardening, permaculture, no-dig and veganic horticulture will gain more traction. The demand for peat will drop (an outright

ban would be better) and, while some gardeners prefer the comfort zone of a more controlled, traditional approach, others are now more tolerant of the notion that gardens are not just for people.

The nine months of introspection has also made many of us question not only who we garden for, but also who has been excluded. Horticulture is a great leveller, but there are still inequalities and hurdles to overcome in terms of race, gender, class and wealth, and for many of us, the privilege of a garden or indeed an allotment has never been felt more keenly.

Education is key, so I see more emphasis on community gardens and gardens for schools, helping children understand just how closely we are entwined with nature. It may also help them relate to others in terms of co-operation, responsibility and equality and, in turn, foster a more tolerant and inclusive society.

clevewest.com

Instagram cleve_west

Humaira Ikram

Garden designer and KLC School of Design course leader

As landscape professionals who work with the future in mind, we must think beyond short-term trends and make decisions that are sustainable both for our clients and for the planet.

Unfortunately, it is not always obvious which options are the best. The majority of designers are already trying to keep waste on site where possible and favour natural materials, but we should appreciate that in some cases, it may be better to reuse the vast amount of plastic that has already been created than to stop using plastic altogether.

Some may instinctively avoid using artificial grass or wood and so on, in consideration of local wildlife and ecosystems, but sometimes these products are still the best ones for the job, provided that they are made from 100 per cent recycled waste material and are themselves 100 per cent recyclable. Making use of the circular economy model, we should collaborate with responsible manufacturers to innovate and create materials using existing waste products, therefore reducing their burden on future generations.

So my trend for this year, and I hope for many years to come, is for us to educate ourselves on more long-term solutions; we should improve our choices and integrate sustainability into our design processes. And if the products we need don't currently exist, then we must keep asking for them until they do.

studioikram.com

Instagram studio_ikram



CHARLIE HOPKINSON

ANN-MARIE POWELL

Award-winning garden designer, presenter and writer, working to enthuse people about gardening.



CHAZ OLDHAM

CLEVE WEST

Restful and engaging spaces, with a focus on craftsmanship, are key to the work of award-winning designer Cleve.



ANDREW MONTGOMERY

HUMAIRA IKRAM

Working as a designer for more than ten years, Humaira can also be heard on BBC Gardeners' Question Time.

I see more focus on gardens for schools, helping children understand how closely we are entwined with nature

CLEVE WEST



LILLY GOMM

Training as an architect, Lilly moved into landscape where her work focuses on public realm planting.



PETER KORN

Peter is a plantsman, gardener and designer in Sweden with a passion for understanding plants in their natural environment.



ONUR PINAR PHOTOGRAPHY

ROBERT MYERS

Director of award-winning studio, taking on large-scale public spaces as well as private projects.

Lilly Gomm

Landscape architect

In keeping with the ongoing awareness of our footprint and the ramifications that our design decisions have on our planet, the drive for a more considered, sustainable approach is top of the agenda. This means hitting targets that maximise urban greening, mitigating against extreme weather events and creating spaces that promote healthy living, while also addressing the fact that access to green space/nature isn't equal.

In our gardens the excitement of discovering new plants and adding to the picture we paint with them is still as zealous as ever. In new designs the victor is always soft in the ratio between hard and soft landscaping, with motivation towards reuse and a light touch.

Design aside, 2021 will be, and needs to be, built on education and acknowledgment of how our gardening history emerged, and historically how it has been expressed to the detriment of others, in turn bolstering an inclusive picture and future within our industry.

lillygomm.com

Instagram [lillygomm](https://www.instagram.com/lillygomm)

Peter Korn

Plantsman and designer

Business as usual is no longer an option. Traditional gardening is being questioned as climate change takes place. Irrigation bans, fewer resources and higher demands on sustainability force us to think anew, and make plantings more adapted to the climate. The aesthetics will remain important, but the main reason for a planting will be function – stormwater management, biodiversity aspects or edible plant material.

Nature-inspired plantings will be seen more frequently. Cities will strive to become greener. The more urbanised we become, the more alienated to nature we get. The foreign can feel threatening and when nature collapses, we try to

find convenient scapegoats. But the real problem will remain. Instead, to create our new nature, different professions must work together – landscapers, plantsmen, biologists and politicians.

We are seeing a trend towards using recycled materials and bringing positive climate effects. New growing substrates and wiser plant choices are being made. The use of biochar, barerooted perennials and seeding will increase.

The biggest challenge is to get the whole chain to work – designers, nurseries, constructors and, above all, maintenance teams. To make future solutions, we need to cross borders. We must emerge from our separate bubbles and co-operate. klingträdgård.se

Robert Myers

Landscape architect and garden designer

When we were designing the Florence Nightingale Garden for the RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2020 (now being built at this year's show), we had no inkling that a raging global pandemic would make our restorative garden quite so resonant. Of course, we already understood the power that gardens and natural spaces have to calm, heal and restore us, but we've seen an even further increased demand for creating restorative green spaces, in both domestic settings and in the public realm. Commercial clients have also begun to appreciate the importance of gardens in, on and around their office buildings as part of a more biophilic approach to architecture.

There is an increasing trend for plants to do double duty in a garden – to be more than simply beautiful. The trend for edible gardens is here to stay. Many of the plants in our Chelsea garden have been selected for their medicinal properties; spurred by the global health crisis, people are increasingly appreciating this traditional and practical use of plants.

robertmyers-associates.co.uk

Instagram [rmlandscape](https://www.instagram.com/rmlandscape)

Arit Anderson

Garden designer and television presenter

The rate of damage happening in our natural world is disturbing, but we learned in 2020 that when people pull together with one goal, rapid change can take place. The landscape profession of garden designers, landscape architects, contractors, suppliers of materials, and so on have a fantastic opportunity to pull together and lead on land stewardship.

Whether it's a small urban garden, or a public realm space, the key question has to be 'is this sustainable design?' Not only will this drive a new aesthetic in terms of plant and hardscape materials but it should also invite us to question our motives for the choices we make. Which client should have the biggest gain? The fee payer or those 'clients' who naturally live in the landscape that's about to be changed?

Whereas the visual appetite has been the key stimulus for so long, many people now talk of the first-hand experience of how gardens support their wellbeing and we now acknowledge that the benefit of nature goes far beyond what can be seen. Trends are spread by people, therefore we all have the capacity to make 2021 the year of consideration, sensitivity, and respectability for the land we get to caretake in our lifetime.

aritanderson.com

Instagram diamondhill2012

Sarah Price

Garden and landscape designer

Sustainability is our future. For much of history people built houses and gardens using local materials and local techniques, for the simple reason that nothing else was available. Careful audits would have been made of any site, its materials and any available local skills. I'm in no way suggesting that 2021 will be a return to the craftsmanship and methods of the past, but rather that there will be a shift in the way we approach the 'construction' or 'making' of gardens that is deeper and which requires more thoughtful assessment early

on in the design process. What on-site resources can we utilise? Rubble, tile, clay? Are there local industries with unwanted byproducts? Can waste materials be turned into something bespoke and beautiful: terrazzo-like bricks, for example? Are there local craftspeople whose skills can be used or adapted?

We also need to get used to the idea of flux in our natural world. Shifts in flora and fauna are now happening at exaggerated speeds and scale. For example, many gardeners in the southeast of the UK will have already observed that birch is on the way out. We need to create gardens and landscapes in which ecological processes can evolve and play out as new species turn up and surprising plant communities evolve.

sarahpricelandscapes.com

Instagram sarahpricelandscapes

Thomas Rainer

Landscape architect

We have already seen a desire for immersive, urban plantings evocative of the wild. Both in the public sector and in domestic landscapes, our clients look to their landscapes as sanctuaries from a fast-changing world.

Yet despite an increasing acceptance of a naturalistic aesthetic, clients want these plantings to be durable, low-maintenance, and ecologically beneficial. This has increased our use of planting mixes. These mixes function aesthetically like a large block massing, but are composed of compatible, interlocking species. This brings a greater emphasis on functionality than the popular New Perennial movement, which was more artistically focused. Our own work focuses on building year-round groundcover out of perennials that are active in different seasons. Trees and shrubs are important anchors in these projects but are spaced far apart so that the full splendour of their forms can be appreciated.

phytostudio.com

Instagram thomasrainerdc



CHARLIE HOPKINSON

ARIT ANDERSON

Familiar as a BBC Gardeners' World presenter, Arit's work as a designer focuses on an holistic approach.



ANDREW MONTGOMERY

SARAH PRICE

Award-winning designer Sarah is drawn to the wild and the natural in creating immersive spaces.



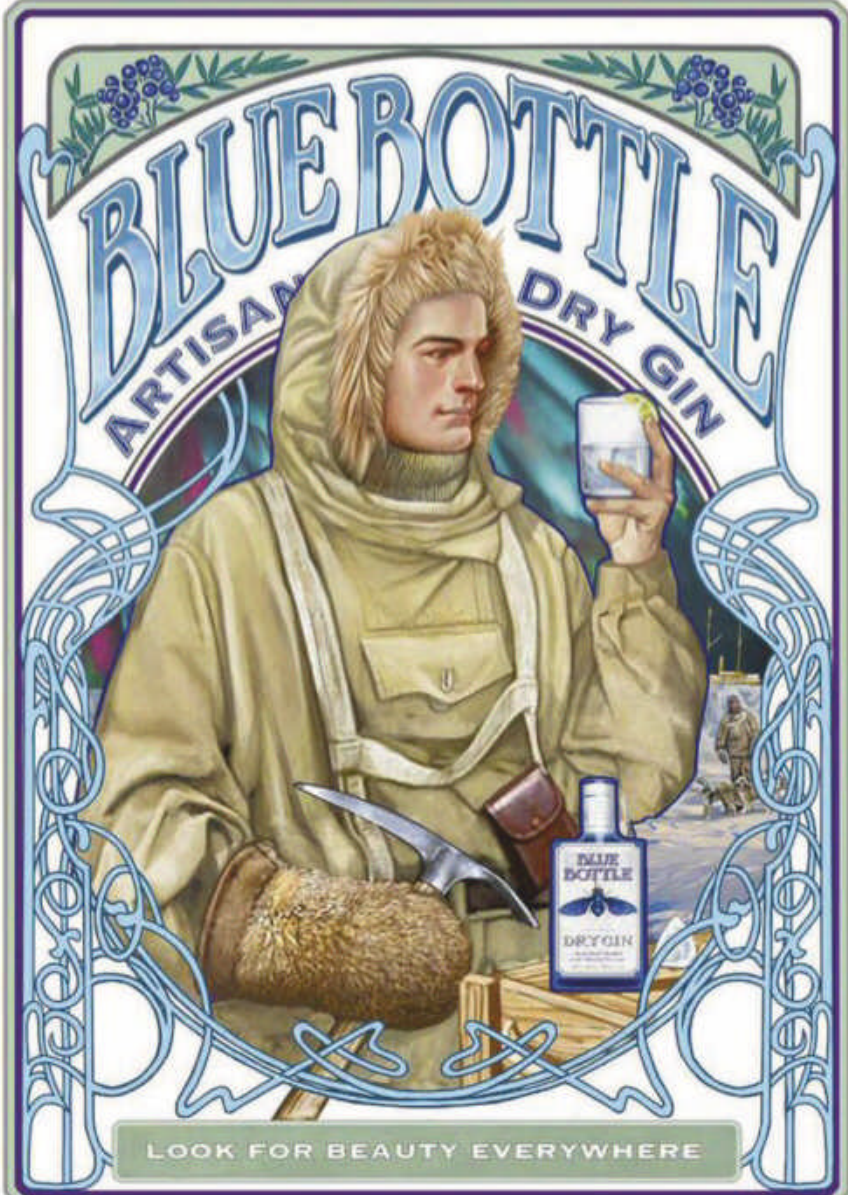
ROB CARDILLO

THOMAS RAINER

Based in the USA, Thomas is a leading voice in ecological landscape design and innovative planting concepts.

The trend is for plants to do double duty, to be more than simply beautiful. The edible garden is here to stay

ROBERT MYERS



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£140, 79x86x38cm, Garden Trading,
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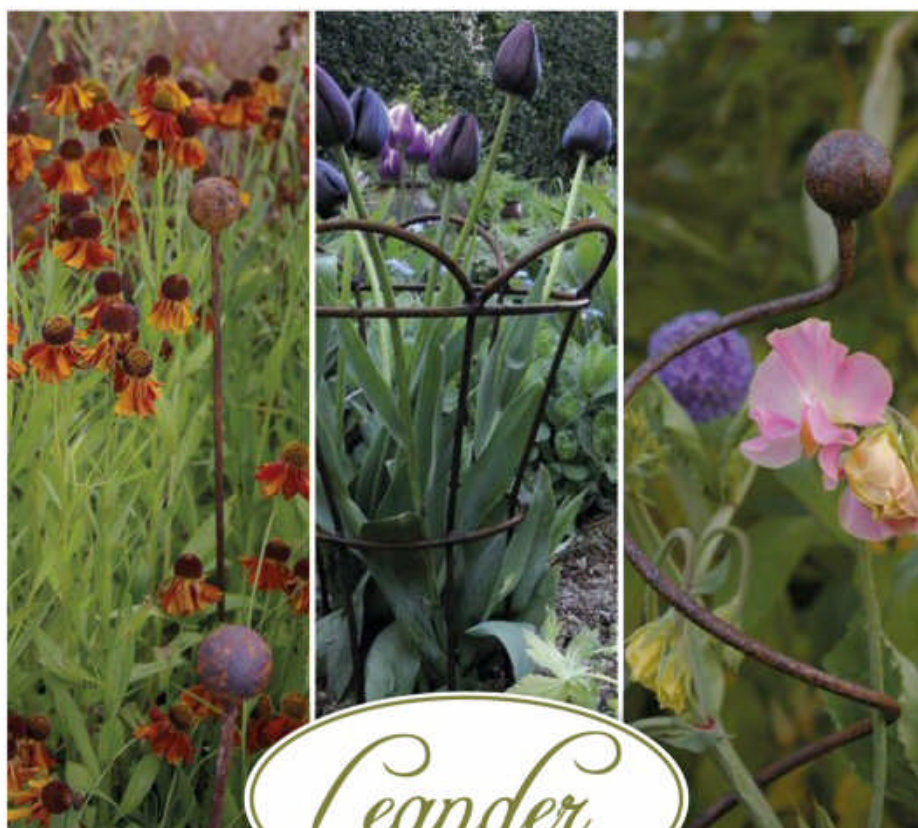
There is an experienced but retiring Groundsman/Handyman and a successor is being sought for that role too. The estate has been called 'Northumberland's hidden gem'. The house and gardens sit beautifully in remarkable landscape.

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Please respond to Jo Dixon on jodixon@jldresource.co.uk 07879 996336



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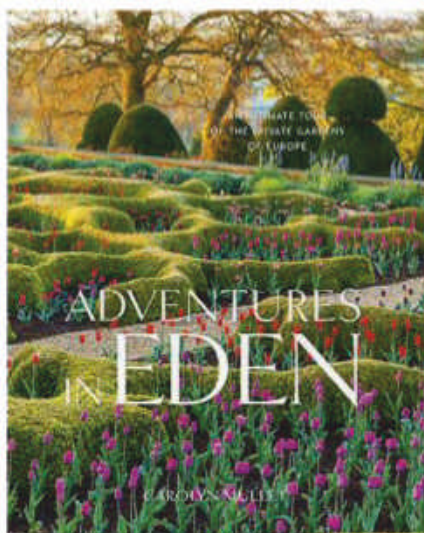
DOWNTOOLS

Book reviews, crossword, back issues, reader offer, competition

Loughborough Big Meadow in Leicestershire is one of 19 Coronation Meadows, created in 2012 to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, celebrated in photographer Hugo Rittson Thomas's new book *Wildflowers for the Queen*, reviewed on page 102.

HUGO RITTSO THOMAS





**ADVENTURES IN EDEN: AN
INTIMATE TOUR OF THE
PRIVATE GARDENS
OF EUROPE**

by Carolyn Mullet

Timber Press, £30
ISBN 978-1604698466

A richly illustrated tour of 50 private contemporary gardens across Europe, chosen and led by landscape designer Carolyn Mullet.

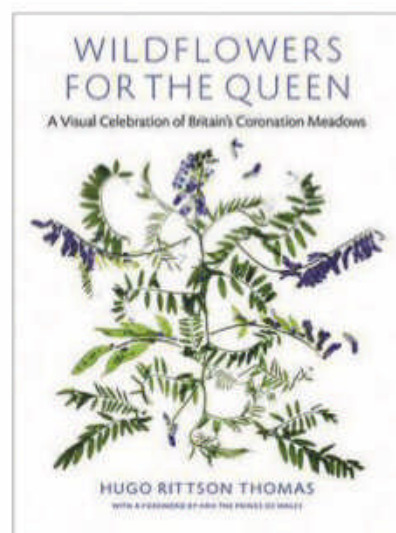
Reviewer Annie Gatti is a freelance garden writer.

The publicity material for this book by American landscape designer and garden tours leader Carolyn Mullet claims the 50 featured gardens are 'Europe's most beautiful gardens'. Whether they are or not doesn't really matter. What does matter is that they are a glorious selection of gardens across a number of European countries, many of them the personal gardens of acclaimed garden designers and landscape architects including Peter Janke, Paolo Pejrone and Tom Stuart-Smith; some that will be familiar to *Gardens Illustrated* readers, some probably not. What links them is the fact that each has been thoughtfully designed, some to a plan, others created in a more organic way, and all of them labours of love.

The book is arranged by country, with the UK and Ireland providing the highest number of gardens at 21. The format for each entry is similar and includes the garden's setting, how the garden was made, a lucid description of

the main elements and how they interrelate, and the owner's favourite time to be in the garden. These accounts reveal the Herculean work undertaken by some owners to improve or alter the blank canvas they start with. They also show, through the ravishing images taken by some of the garden world's top photographers, how many owners in these contrasting settings and climates have gravitated towards naturalistic plantings.

Many of these gardens have been created on a huge scale, with planting densities running into the thousands, so it would be understandable to feel disheartened when trying to relate them to one's own plot. But there are plenty of well-captioned close-ups of dreamy plant combinations to get excited about. Read this book with a notebook to hand as it's likely you'll want to create your own itinerary of stunning private gardens to visit, here and abroad, as you turn the pages.



**WILDFLOWERS FOR
THE QUEEN: A VISUAL
CELEBRATION OF BRITAIN'S
CORONATION MEADOWS**

by Hugo Rittson Thomas

Wildflower Press, £50
ISBN 978-1527249592

A beautiful and informative celebration of hay meadows, that would appeal to anyone passionate about Britain's botanically rich pastureland.

Reviewer Matthew Biggs is a Kew-trained gardener and presenter.

When HRH Prince Charles, the Patron of the conservation charity Plantlife, read its 2012 report and realised how many hay meadows had been lost over the previous 60 years (an area around one and half times the size of Wales) he came up with the idea of selecting seed from each British county and using it to create a new meadow in each shire. They are becoming one of most colourful, long lasting celebrations of Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee year.

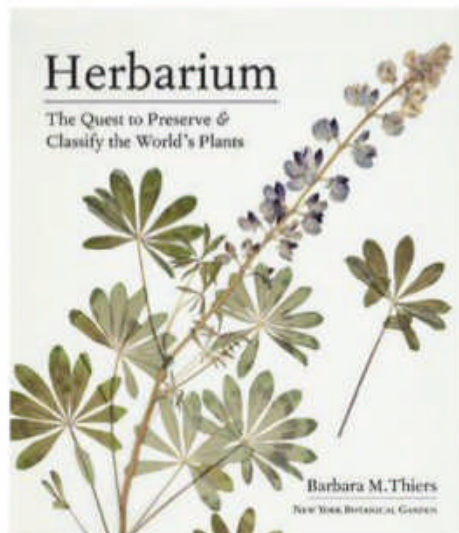
Coronation Meadows both ancient and modern, are explored in this emotive visual celebration of this precious botanical heritage, interpreted through the lens of Hugo Rittson Thomas, whose outstanding and varied images taken in wild places and public spaces, illuminate this book. From a remote farm in the Western Isles where Atlantic-facing meadows meander among rocky crags, to chalk banks in Kent, whose foundation are earthworks dug in the Second World War, he distils their beauty in his own

distinctive style, paying homage to influences including celebrated photographers Robert Mapplethorpe, Nick Knight, Dutch Old Masters and Victorian botanical plates.

The accompanying commentary by botanist Dr Trevor Dines, of Plantlife, enlightens the reader with back stories of feature plants such as bluebells, meadow clary and glorious orchids galore, including fascinating facts about their medicinal uses, economic history, folklore and associated fauna, while short essays on wildflowers from such luminaries as Julian Fellowes, Alan Titchmarsh and Nicholas Coleridge, who have created meadows of their own, add an enriching personal touch.

Both images and text are an inspiration for all, from conservationists, to students of the British flora and anyone who would like to create a hay meadow of their own. This uplifting book should both inspire us to conserve our hay meadows and create a great many more.

BOOK REVIEWS



HERBARIUM: THE QUEST TO PRESERVE & CLASSIFY THE WORLD'S PLANTS
by Barbara M Thiers

Timber Press, £24
ISBN 978-1604699302

An enlightening tribute to the mysterious world of herbaria that is meticulously researched, well organised and above all accessible.

Reviewer Hannah Gardner is a horticulturist and garden writer.

Data collection informs and steers the course of humanity, but few of us have considered the origins of plant- and fungi-based data. In the preface to *Herbarium*, Barbara M Thiers recalls childhood herbarium trips with her mycologist father; 'I loved to read about the adventure but was happiest when I was able to learn about the less exciting but ultimately more important work of preserving and studying the plants they collected'.

Having spent much of her life immersed in botany, Thiers currently manages one of the largest archive collections in the world. Originally known as Hortus Hiemalis (winter garden) or Hortus Siccus (dry garden), such collections are fundamental to our knowledge of plant diversity, but unlike the living collections found in public botanical gardens, they remain primarily accessible to the scientific community.

This book shines a light on global herbaria. Early chapters delve into the history of botanical exploration, the

Renaissance shift to learning by direct observation and scientific developments that followed, all framed within the expansion of colonial trade interests by European powers. The focus is on the European and US origins of herbaria but includes brief histories of collections in China, India, the Islamic world and those of the Aztecs. Further chapters detail key botanical pioneers and their legacies in countries as diverse as Australia, Brazil, South Africa and China.

The final chapter ponders the modern role of herbaria, explaining technological advances that make this shared data pool an invaluable tool in the urgent quest to safeguard the earth's ecosystems and shrinking biodiversity.

Thiers has scoured academic libraries and museums for a cornucopia of wonderful photographs, maps, artists renderings and specimen sheets that enrich and enliven the meaty text. A gem of a book for plant geeks, conservationists or anyone interested in natural history.

Other books

From a guide to caring for houseplants to an ode to the humble earthworm, the best-of-the-rest books to read in January.



PLANTOPEDIA

by Lauren Camilleri
and Sophia Kaplan,
Smith Street Books, £30,
ISBN 978-1925811773

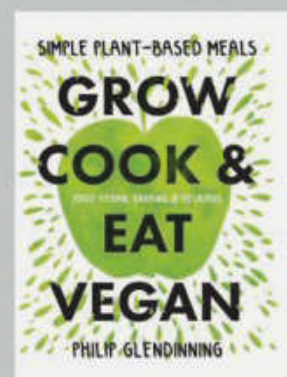
The definitive guide to keeping houseplants happy and healthy from the founders of Australian indoor plant specialist Leaf Supply.



GARDEN PORTRAITS

by Larry Lederman,
Monacelli Press, £40,
ISBN 978-1580935456

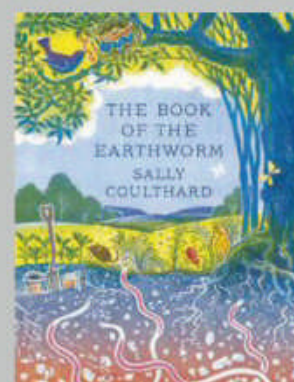
Photographer Larry Lederman explores 16 private gardens in New York State and Connecticut throughout the seasons.



GROW COOK & EAT VEGAN

by Philip Glendinning,
Book Guild Publishing, £14.99,
ISBN 978-1913551100

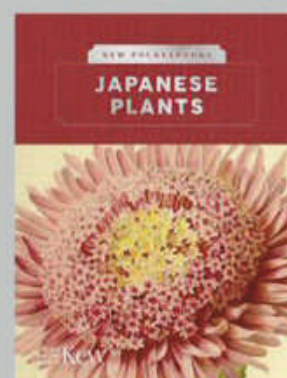
A guide for anyone thinking of becoming a vegan, or who simply wants to enhance their wellbeing with a healthier lifestyle.



THE BOOK OF THE EARTHWORM

by Sally Coulthard,
Apollo, £14.99,
ISBN 978-1789544756

Sally Coulthard explores the miraculous world of the modest creature without whom life on earth would not be possible.



JAPANESE PLANTS

by Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
Kew Publishing, £8.99
ISBN 978-1842467206

The latest in the new pocketbooks series showcases Japanese plants, from chrysanthemums to maples, through botanical paintings held at the Library, Art and Archives at Kew.

GARDEN MEDIA GUILD'S WEBSITE OF THE YEAR

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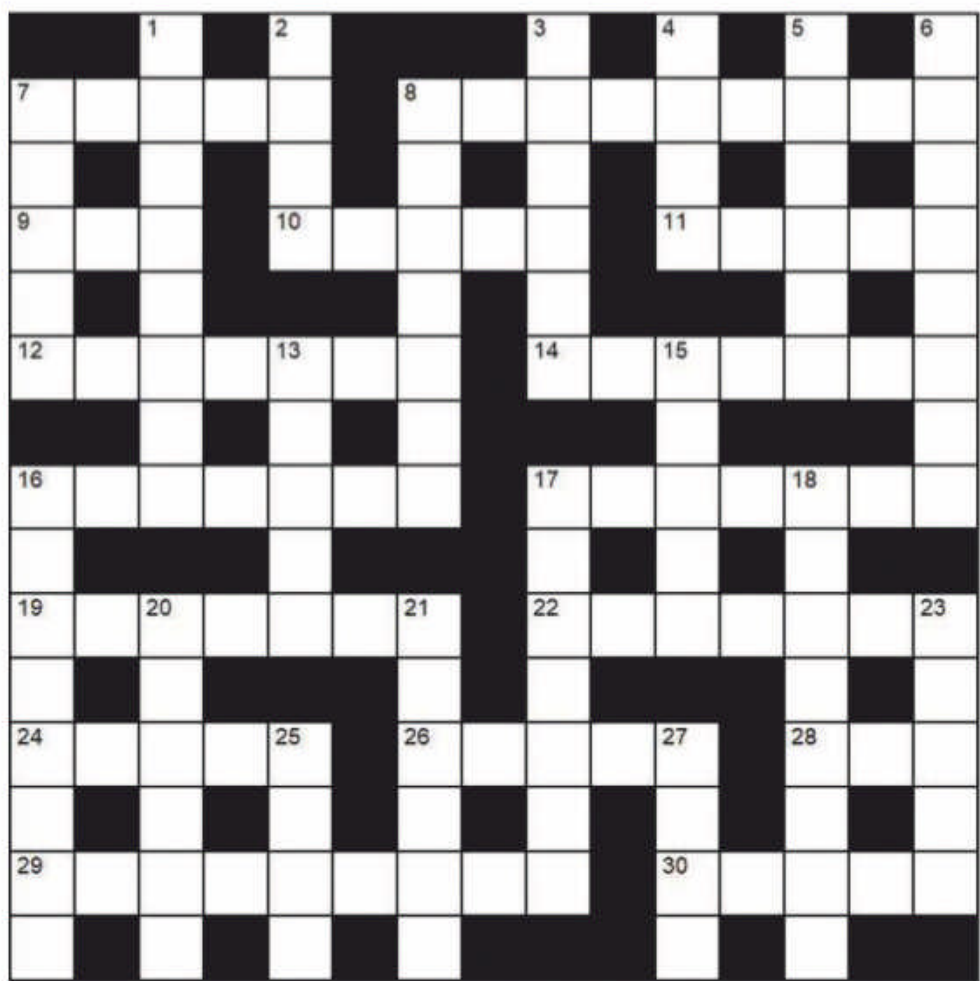
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Crossword



ACROSS

7 Store of sweet-scented plant of *Matthiola* genus (5)
8 Genus of ‘Russian Sage’, synonymous with *Salvia* – skip over a variation (9)
9 Hawaiian-style flower garland... part of *Triteleia* (3)
10 Fruit that’s a tomato if given love at first! (5)
11 Name... part of *Campanula* (bellflower) (5)
12 Genus of nemesia-like flower aka ‘Twinspur’, CIA aids cultivated (7)
14 Praise a fantastic shrub with flowering panicles (7)
16 Pansy relatives (7)
17 *Iris* relative with funnel-shaped flowers – held by carefree Sian (7)
19 Genus of plants in ginger family, with orchid-like flowers – sort of coarse with nothing inside (7)
22 Grass-like flowering South African plants – it’s rose, possibly (7)
24 *Gladiolus* ‘___’ with cerise-marked white petals – also insect larva (5)
26 Backbone – not a feature of a thornless plant (5)
28 Peach and mauve bearded iris and ornamental pond fish (3)
29 Genus of cabbage palm eg ‘Torbay Dazzler’ (9)
30 Latin term for a range of dwarf gladioli (5)

DOWN

1 Golden rod genus (8)
2 Cook rarely includes the lady’s fingers plant (4)
3 The scarlet-flowered hybrid, *Pelargonium* ‘___’ – in garden soil (6)
4 Shape of eg dogwood leaves (4)
5 Genus of climber ‘Chocolate Vine’ – ‘AA bike’, maybe (6)
6 ___ *cordata*, the plume poppy – Alec may upset one (8)
7 Leaves a good part of this healthy dish? (5)
8 Aspens are ‘trembling’ ones (7)
13 *Achillea* ‘___’ (name means belief system) (5)
15 Sweet Spire shrubs... in white asters (5)
16 Genus of speedwell (8)
17 Fruitful (7)
18 *Iris foetidissima*, or ‘___ iris’ (8)
20 Sycamore’s winged fruit (6)
21 David, world-renowned rosarian (6)
23 Term for sweet potato plant cuttings – bloomers? (5)
25 Genus of plant called wax flower adds nothing to hay mixture (4)
27 A flared red-flowered *Penstemon* in Volcano Series (4)

• Solutions to this issue’s crossword will be printed in the February issue

SOLUTIONS TO THE DECEMBER ISSUE’S CROSSWORD

Across 10 Saruma 11 Olearia 12 Peapod 13 Aconites 14 Guelder rose 15/6 Christmas tree 17 Canoe 18 Eden 19 Ice plant 21 Train 23 Troll 25 Fall 26 Herbs 27 Karma 28 Ilex 30 Swell 31 Shear 32 Serenade 36 Elwes 38 Gladiator 40 Hot chocolate 42 Sidalcea 43 Fleece 44 Lychnis 45 Eider.
Down 1 Sarcococca 2 Runner 3 Fantasia 4 Moss 5 Sedges 7/34 Maidenhair 8 Salome 9 Bonemeal 12 Pernettya 16 Matures 17 Cracker 20 Pulse 21 Tassels 22 Nerissa 24 Onion 26 Hellebore 29 Elderberry 30 Sea holly 33 Reindeer 35 Rocket 37 Woolly 38 Greens 39 Toledo 41 Arch 42 So-so.

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Our 100 Plants feature (page 29) has a fantastic selection of beautiful and useful plants chosen by top designers as their tried-and-tested, go-to plants. Pick up on ideas to expand your planting palette and understand more about what plants thrive where. Couple that with the range of plants on offer from online nursery crocus.co.uk, and now is the perfect time to plan the planting season ahead.

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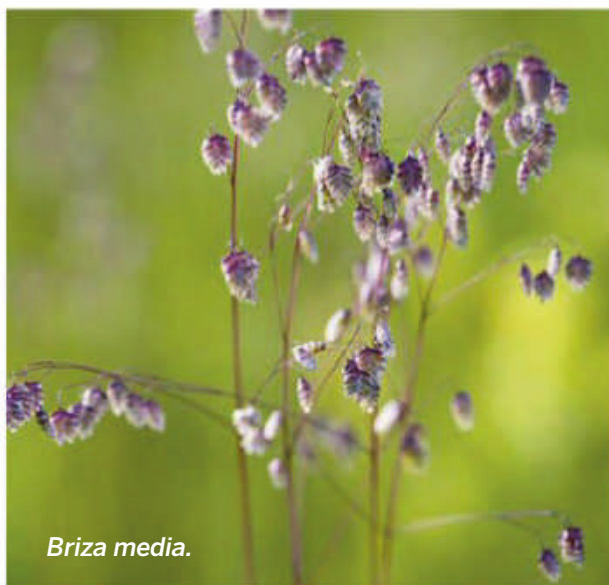
Offer ends 2 February 2021.

* Terms & Conditions

Offer valid for UK customers only for plants, bulbs and seed only at crocus.co.uk. All plants are subject to availability. Offer excludes products and machinery as well as gift vouchers and delivery. Discount cannot be used with any other offer. Code can only be used once per customer. Orders must be made before 23:59 on 2 February 2021.

- While Crocus stocks a large range of plants, it doesn't necessarily stock all 100 of the plants selected in our feature. To find suppliers of specific cultivars, please use the RHS Plant Finder book or rhs.org.uk/plants/search-form to locate alternative suppliers.

CROCUS



Briza media.



Orlaya grandiflora AGM.



Corylus avellana.



Cerinthe major 'Purpurascens'.



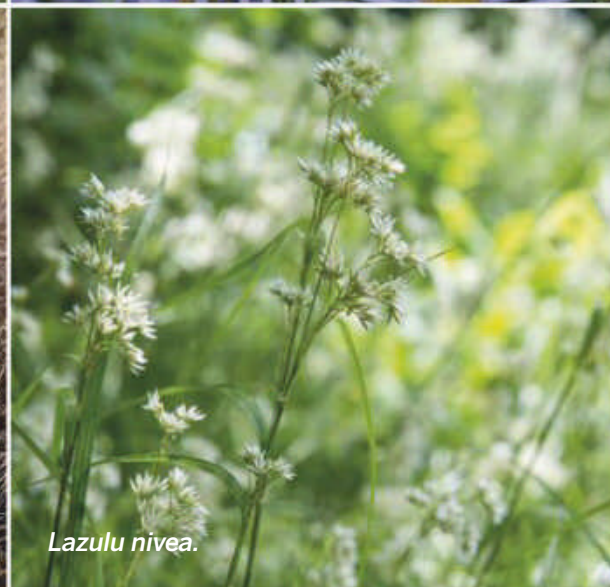
Origanum 'Kent Beauty' AGM.



Aster x frikartii 'Mönch'.



Deschampsia cespitosa 'Goldtau'.



Lazulu nivea.

READER COMPETITION

Win a pair of tickets to the Chelsea Late at RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2021



This May, the horticultural world will be delighted to gather once again for the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, to showcase the very best in garden design and planting. With time to reflect on what is key to our lives, our homes and gardens, top designers will present inspirational show gardens, while the very best in plants and nursery collections will be on show in the Great Pavilion. Plus, you'll find the most stylish garden products and accessories to buy that will add extra individuality and style to your garden.

This year the show runs for an extra day, plus there's the Chelsea Late event, allowing visitors to explore the wonders of the show at night, alongside live entertainment and informative workshops. The show is a sell-out event every year, so we are delighted to offer the competition prize of a pair of tickets to visit the show.

THE PRIZE

We have one pair of tickets to give away to the 2021 Chelsea Late at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show on Friday 21 May 2021, 5.30-10pm. You'll also receive a show guide, and *Gardens Illustrated* goodie bag. For more details about the show go to rhs.org.uk

Please see Terms & Conditions below.

HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to win, answer the following question:

Including 2021's show, how many years has RHS Chelsea Flower Show been held in the grounds of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea?

- a) 87
- b) 115
- c) 108

Enter online at gardensillustrated.com/Chelseacompetition

Closing date for entries 11.59pm, 1 February 2021.

CHELSEA LATE AND OTHER 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

The Chelsea Late is an exclusive event that allows visitors entry to the show from 5.30pm on the Friday of show week. Walk the showground to discover everything the show has to offer and once the gates close to day visitors at 8pm, you'll have access to the delightful surroundings of Ranelagh Gardens for an evening of workshops, live music and demonstrations. Other show highlights include headline sponsors M&G garden, designed this year by Harris Bugg Studio, a focus on the positive impact of gardens and plants, and a garden that celebrates the work of the NHS. The new Sanctuary Gardens category further highlights ways in which our gardens can improve our wellbeing.

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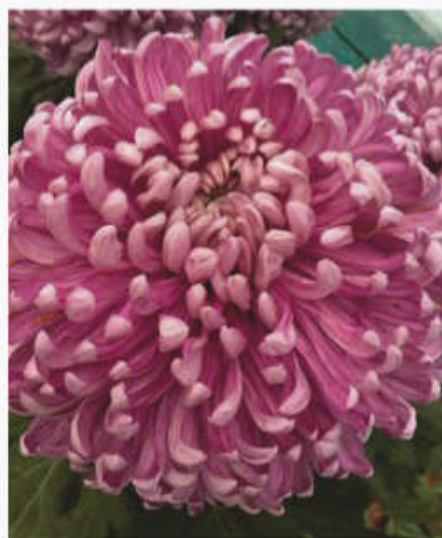
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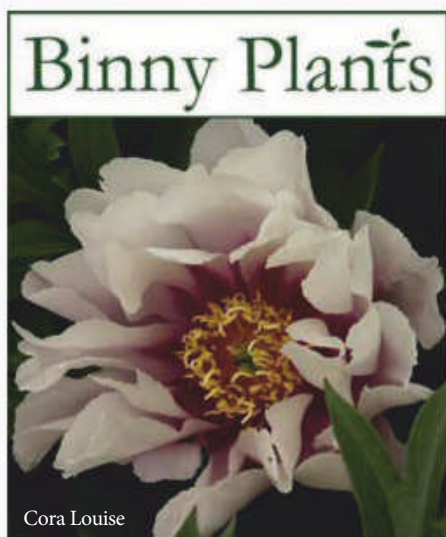
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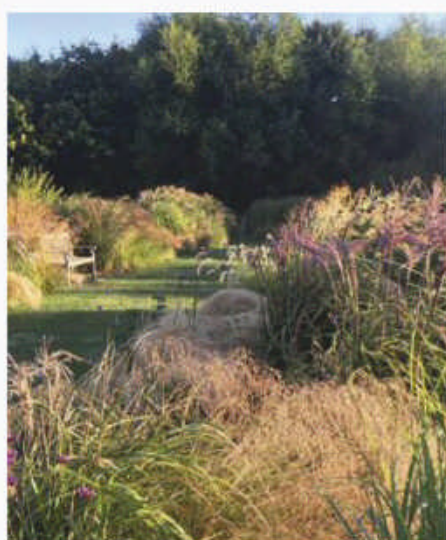
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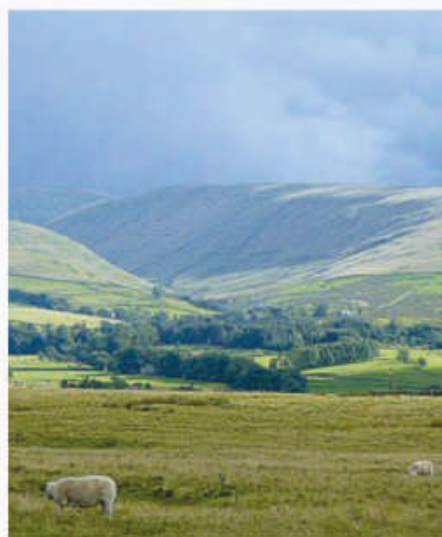
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Gardens to visit 2021

This new year, make a resolution to visit our collection of stunning gardens and arboretums from across the UK and Ireland. Watch the turn of the seasons through the beautifully changing flora and fauna.

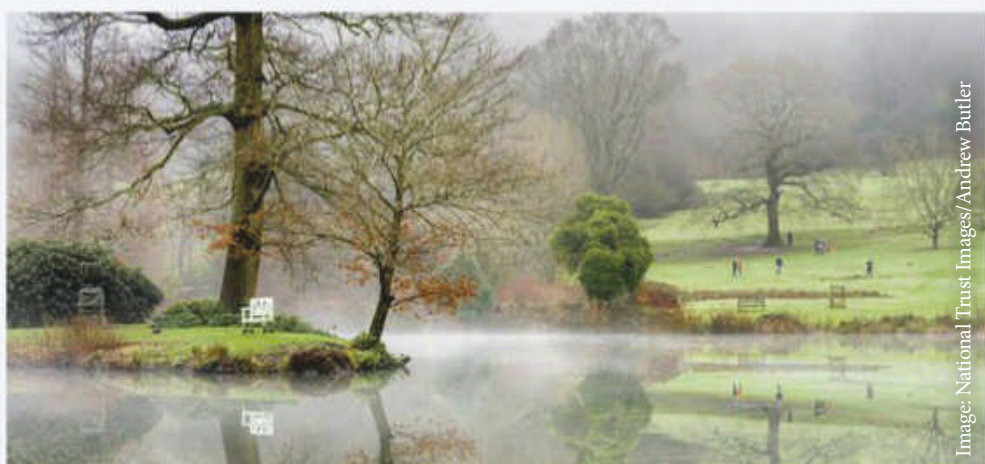


Image: National Trust Images/Andrew Butler

1 CHARTWELL

With mirror-like lakes and expansive views of the Weald of Kent, the Chartwell estate shines in winter. Reflecting on the separation we've all felt away from home and loved ones, a trail around the garden displays letters written between Winston and Clementine while duties kept them apart.

Kent, TN16 1PS | 01732 868381 | nationaltrust.org.uk/chartwell



2 GREAT COMP GARDEN

Great Comp Garden near Sevenoaks is considered one of the finest spring gardens in the country. The unique Snowdrop Sensation on 21 February is quickly followed by the garden and pretty tearoom opening from 1 March to reveal clouds of stunning magnolias then azaleas and rhododendrons.

Nr Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 8QS | 01732 885094 | greatcompgarden.co.uk



4 KELMARSH HALL & GARDENS

The glorious gardens at Kelmarsh are influenced by the work of three 20th century tastemakers: Nancy Lancaster, Norah Lindsey and Geoffrey Jellicoe. The garden holds exuberant flower borders, romantic rose gardens, and a walled garden full of vibrant colours which hosts magnificent Dahlias in late Summer.

Kelmarsh, Northants NN6 9LY | 01604686543 | kelmarsh.com



3 CHIPPENHAM PARK

Large formal and woodland gardens set around lakes and ancient canals, boasting spectacular displays of snowdrops and aconites in February followed by a succession of hellebores, scillas, cyclamen, iris, daphnes, viburnums and a crescendo of daffodils. RHS Partner Garden. 23 January - 1 April 10am-4pm.

Chippenham, Ely, Cambs CB7 5PT | 01638 721416 | chippenhamparkgardens.co.uk



5 DUBLIN GARDEN TRAIL

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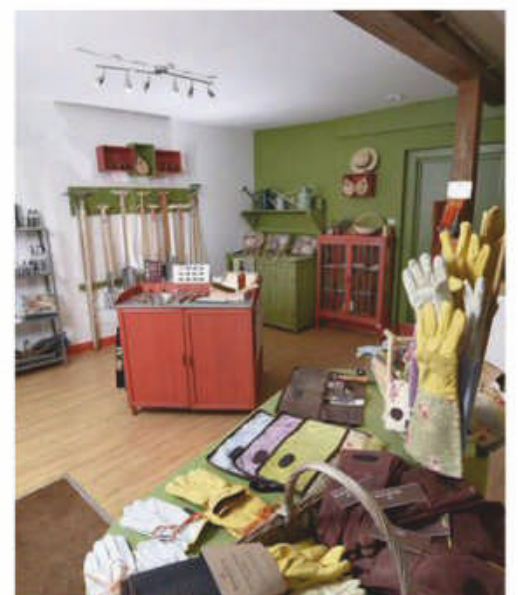
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GARDENS

ILLUSTRATED

FEBRUARY ISSUE

- Head gardener Troy Scott Smith selects the best biennials to grow from seed
- A small city garden that uses a verdant mix of clever planting to disguise its awkward, split-level shape
- James Basson's design for a French garden that makes the most of the stunning surrounding landscape
- Tom Stuart-Smith's new garden for The Hepworth Wakefield gallery in West Yorkshire



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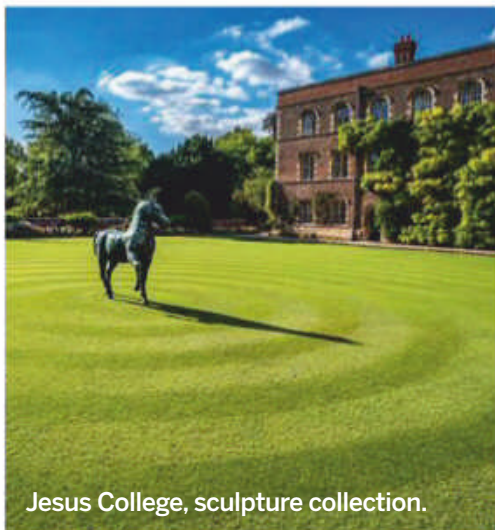
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How to spend a gardener's weekend in...

Cambridge

In the first of our new series, Kendra Wilson offers an insider's look at how to get the most out of a gardener's weekend in the university city of Cambridge



Jesus College, sculpture collection.

Freedom of the city

In a city of privately enclosed gardens, it is good to know that a friendly way with college porters will get you into at least one green quadrangle (just remember not to walk on the grass). Colleges are open to visitors on different days: on arrival, get your bearings by enquiring at the porters' lodges and plan accordingly. **Jesus College**, one of the oldest, stands on 33 acres and boasts a serious outdoor sculpture collection; modernist **Murray Edwards College** opens its gardens all day, every day.

Neo-Pagan swimming but punting is equally fun; get there by hiring your own punt from Scudamore's. A warm haven at Grantchester is the charming **Blue Ball Inn**.



Heong Gallery.

Splendid isolation

Cambridge attracts around eight million visitors in a normal year. The great advantage to visiting a prized city in the middle of winter is that there is less chance of being trampled underfoot. And in early 2021, cultural hubs present a jostle-free experience. Don't hesitate to see the English landscapes and Dutch vanitas paintings at the **Fitzwilliam Museum**, and the essential mid-century art ensemble at **Kettle's Yard**. Fossils and expedition gear can be found at the **Polar Museum**; for a bracing shot of modern art, go to the **Heong Gallery** at nearby Downing College.

Reality check

Seasonal ingredients from East Anglia are served up at urbane **Parker's Tavern**, 'where university hall meets velvet-upholstered club'. Diagonally across the great city green of Parker's Piece – past a central lamppost bearing the legend '**Reality Check Point**', painted in gold by Cambridge School of Art students – the vibrant **Mill Road** neighbourhood has a different rhythm. International supermarkets rub shoulders with vintage clothes and antique shops (such as the excellent **Cambs Antique Centre**, with floral art nouveau tiles and 20th-century British pastoral

art), as well as a burgeoning café and restaurant scene. **Tom's Cakes** uses fresh, local produce and herbs; **Vanderlyle** offers an innovative, plant-based lunch and dinner. **Calverley's Brewery & Taproom** serves and sells good small batch beer; stop at one of the excellent food vans of Cambridge (such as **The Wandering Yak** and **Guerrilla Kitchen**) that are often parked outside.

Restorative tonic

Near the train station, the **Cambridge University Botanic Garden's** 40 acres offer refuge and inspiration all year round, with several National Collections, including *Saxifraga*, *Fritillaria* and *Tulipa*. As bulbs begin to stir along The Backs, giving a fabulous view of famous colleges from the other side of the River Cam, the quiet season is heartily embraced seven miles away in **Anglesey Abbey's** winter garden. Five miles out of town in the other direction, university-owned **Madingley Hall** offers Edwardian terraces, a yew topiary garden and a wider landscape conceived by 'Capability' Brown. The **Gog Magog Hills** beckon, six miles south of Cambridge. The outlines of an Iron Age hillfort are part of the surroundings at **Wandlebury Hill**, as well as a monumental 18th-century stable block, the house it once served having been long since demolished. If a transcendental landscape is what you are after, head a bit further afield (17 miles) to the stark isolation of **Wicken Fen**, the National Trust's oldest Nature Reserve.

Souvenirs

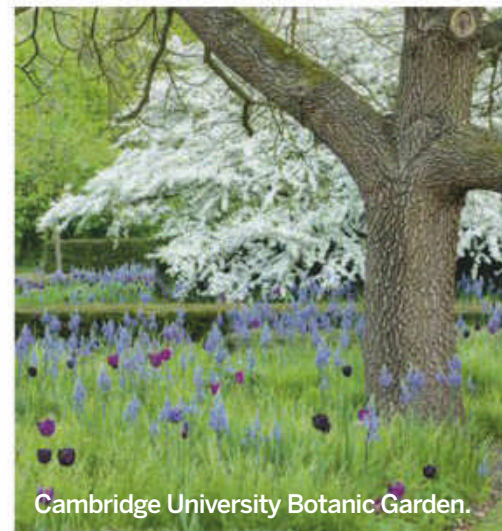
Best take-out lunch Barbarella (which shares premises with The Botanical Alchemist).
Best deli The Cambridge Cheese Company.
Best groceries Meadows, featuring veg from Flourish Produce where hores take the place of tractors.
Best pick-me-up Jack's Gelato, Bould Brothers Coffee.
Best browse The Haunted Bookshop.



Punting along the Cam.

Go with the flow

Cambridge backs on to the fenland of eastern England, and the mysteries of this low-lying, watery landscape are part of its atmosphere. **Coe Fen**, butting up against **Peterhouse** in the middle of town, is a nature reserve and cow pasture; the meadows and village of **Fen Ditton** are a pleasant hour's walk east along the **River Cam**. Upstream, past Grantchester Meadows, **Byron's Pool** is famous for



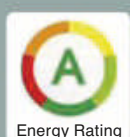
Cambridge University Botanic Garden.

COMPILED BY KENDRA WILSON, ROBERT EVANS, IMAGEBROKER, NATHANIEL NOIR, ALL ALAMY STOCK PHOTO, GAP PHOTOS/HOWARD RICE - CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY BOTANIC GARDENS



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